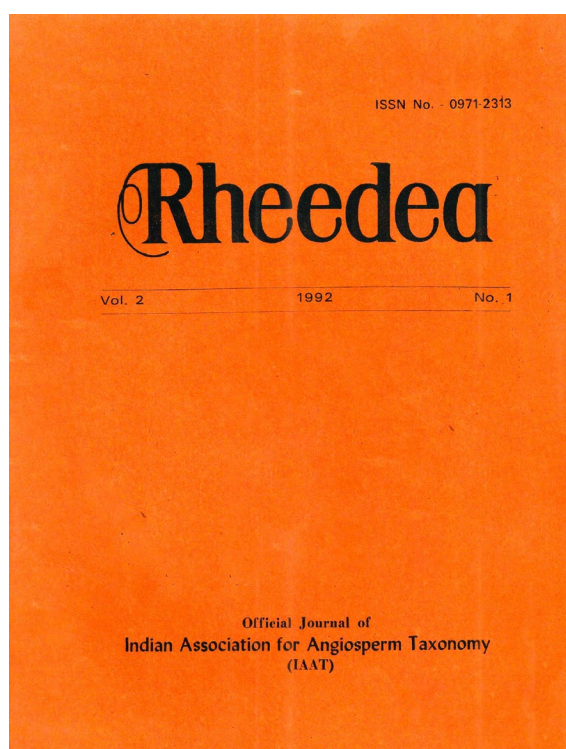




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Jha R.R. & S.K. Varma



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Some rare grasses recollected after a lapse of hundred years from Bihar

R. R. Jha and S. K. Varma

Department of Botany, Bhagalpur University,
Bhagalpur-812007.

Abstract

26 taxa of the family Poaceae have been recollected from Bihar after a lapse of about hundred years.

Poaceae is one of the largest family of Bihar and contains more than 300 species (Jain *et al*, 1975). During a study of the grass flora of Bihar and scanning of specimens at Central National Herbarium, Howrah, the authors could determine that the following grasses - *Aristida funiculata* Trin. et Rupr., *Brachiaria kurzii* (Hook. f.) A. Camus, *Chloris montana* Roxb., *Chrysopogon lancearius* (Hook. f.) Haines, *Coelachne simpliciuscula* (Wight. & Arn. ex Steud.) Munro ex Benth., *Coix aquatica* Roxb., *Cynodon arcuatus* J. S. Presl ex C. B. Presl, *C. barberi* Rang. et Tad., *Dimeria ornithopoda* Trin., *Dinebra retroflexa* (Vahl) Panz., *Garnotia tenella* (Arn. ex Miq.) Jan., *Hymenachne pseudo-interrupta* C. Muell., *Ischaemum indicum* (Houtt.) Merr. var. *indicum* subvar. *malacophyllum* (Hochst.) Bor, *Iseilema laxum* Hack., *Melanocenchris jacquemontii* Jaub. et Spach, *Microstegium ciliatum* (Trin.) A. Camus, *Mnesithea laevis* (Retz.) Kunth, *Narenga porphyrocoma* (Hance) Bor, *Oropetium thomaeum* (L. f.) Trin., *Panicum antidotale* Retz., *Pseudopogonatherum contortum* (Brongn.) A. Camus, *Pseudoraphis brunoniana* Griff., *Schoenefeldia gracilis* Kunth, *Sporobolus tetra-*

gonus Bor, *Sehima nervosum* (Rottl.) Stapf and *Tragus roxburghii* Panigrahi have been recollected from Bihar after a lapse of about hundred years. Perusal of literature reveals that the above mentioned grasses have not been collected by Mooney (1950), Bressers (1951), Panigrahi (1966), Paul (1967), Thothathri *et al.* (1966), Banerjee & Banerjee (1968), Manna & Samaddar (1984) and Singh (1985). Recollection of the above rare grasses from different localities of Bihar is, hence interesting. The history of their earlier collection and the localities of the recent collection are provided here. All the cited specimens are deposited in Bhagalpur University Herbarium, Bhagalpur.

Aristida funiculata Trin. et Rupr.

J. D. Nusker collected this annual grass from Gaya (Gaya, Oct. 1902, Nusker s. n. CAL acc. no 533997). We have been able to collect it from Gilamari, 3 km south-east from Mirzachowki, Sahibganj District. (RRJha 6493).

Brachiaria kurzii (Hook. f.) A. Camus.

This rare grass was once collected

from Bihar (Parasnath; *Hooker* 12, CAL). It has been recollected from Mirzachowki Sahibganj District. (*RRJha* 6576).

***Chloris montana* Roxb.**

Mokim collected this rare grass from Rajmahal of Bihar during Oct. 1894, (*Mokim* 1464, CAL). Now it has been collected from the dry sandy soils of Gandhigram (Godda District) (*RRJha* 6532) and Shripur, 18 km south from Mirzachowki, Sahibganj District (*RRJha* 6534).

***Chrysopogon lancearius* (Hook. f.) Haines**

This perennial grass, which grows in, rock crevices, was earlier collected by Kurz, Clarke and Haines from Bihar (Munger hills, 3. 11. 1868, *Kurz* s. n. CAL acc. no. 531018; Ramghur ghat, Singbhum, 1750', 19. 10. 1883, *Clarke* 33898 B, CAL; Singbhum, Sept. 1899, *Haines* 201, CAL). We have recollected the same from Mirzachowki, Sahibganj District, (*RRJha* 6573) and Gandhigram, Godda District. (*RRJha* 7805 A.).

***Coelachne simpliciuscula* (Wight & Arn. ex Steud.) Munro ex Benth.**

Earlier this grass was collected from Ranchi District of Bihar (Chotanagpur, Ranchi, 2000', 4. 12. 1874, *Clarke* 25190, CAL). The same has been recollected from Dumka District. Mahuagarhi, 1800', (*RRJha* 6506).

***Coix aquatica* Roxb.**

Kurz and Mokim had collected this rare grass from Bihar (Purneah, 30. 10. 1868, *Kurz* s. n. CAL. acc. no. 525525; Teenpahar, 2. 11. 1868; *Kurz* 199, CAL; Munger, Oct. 1894, *Mokim* 1397, CAL). The same has been recollected by us from Simartala, Sahibganj District, (*RRJha* 6345).

***Cynodon arcuatus* J. S. Presl ex C. B. Presl**

Earlier, it has been collected by Kurz and Nusker from Bihar (Baidyanath, 7. 10. 1894, *Nusker* s. n.; Rajmahal Hills, Sahibganj Oct. 1870; *Kurz* 714, CAL). We have collected it from Khutnashi. Bhagalpur District. (*RRJha* 6733); Karamtola, Sahibganj District, (*RRJha* 6443) and Sundarpahari, Godda District, (*RRJha* 6529).

***Cynodon barberi* Rang. et Tad.**

Previously, the plant was collected by Clarke and Nusker (Hazaribag, 12. 10. 1883, *Clarke* 33784 B, CAL; Baidyanath, 10. 10. 1884, *Nusker* 1279, CAL). Recently, the same has been collected from Shripur, Sahibganj District, (*RRJha* 6553).

***Dimeria ornithopoda* Trin.**

This rare grass was first collected by Clarke from Singbhum District of Bihar (Cheybasa, 1500', 20. 11. 1883, *Clarke* 34350 A, CAL). The same has been recollected from Maharajpur, Sahibganj District, (*RRJha* 7198).

***Dinebra retroflexa* (Vahl) Panz.**

Kurz collected this rare grass from Bihar without mentioning any specific locality (Behar, *Kurz* s. n., CAL, acc. no. 539424). The same has been recollected from Karamtola, Sahibganj District, (*RRJha* 6550).

***Garnotia tenella* (Arn. ex Miq.) Jan.**

The only earlier collection is from Parasnath by Clarke (Parasnath, Hazaribag, 4300' 10. 10. 1873, *Clarke* 21057 E; 7. 10. 1883, *Clarke* 33091 C, CAL). The same has been collected on wet moss

Rare grasses from Bihar

covered rocks at Motijharna, Maharajpur, Sahibganj District, (*RRJha* 6363).

Hymenachne pseudo-interrupta C. Muell.

This rare aquatic grass was earlier recorded from Santhal Pargana by Mokim (Rajmahal, Oct. 1894, *Mokim* 1474, CAL). The same has been collected along the muddy bank of tributary of river Ganga at Babupur, Sahibganj District (*RRJha* 6428) and Hazipur diara, Bhagalpur District, (*RRJha* 6612).

Ischaemum indicum (Houtt.) Merr. var. **indicum** subvar. **malacophyllum** (Hochst.) Bor.

This prostrate annual grass was first reported from Bihar by Clarke and Kurz (Hazaribag, 10. 10. 1873, *Clarke* 21187 B, CAL; "Behar", *Kurz* 452, CAL). It has been recollected from Karamtola of Sahibganj District (*RRJha* 6609).

Iseilema laxum Hack.

This marshy grass was earlier collected from Bihar by Clarke (Gaya, 10. 10. 1894, *Mokim* 1354, 1357, 1358, 1377, CAL). We have collected it from Asanbani, Dumka District, (*NNDas* 2939) and Mirzachowki, Sahibganj District, (*RRJha* 6586).

Melanocenchris jacquemontii Jaub. & Spach

The only earlier collection is from Gaya by Mokim (Gaya, Oct. 1894, *Mokim* 1368, CAL). The same has been collected from another locality, Gandhigram in Godda District, (*RRJha* 7091).

Microstegium ciliatum (Trin.) A. Camus

This grass was collected by Clarke from two places of Bihar (Hazaribag, 10. 10. 1883, *Clarke* 33794 B; Parasnath, *Clarke* 24859, CAL). We could collect this rare grass from Maharajpur, Sahibganj District, (*RRJha* 6604), Chunjo hill, Dumka District, (*RRJha* 6629) and Angwali, Godda District, (*RRJha* 7347).

Mnesithea leavis (Retz.) Kunth

The lone collection of this grass from Bihar is of Mokim (Munger, Oct. 1894, *Mokim* 1405, CAL). This grass is now fairly common and it has been collected from Shivnarayanpur, Bhagalpur District (*RRJha* 5830), Mirzachowki, Sahibganj District, (*RRJha* 6636) and Gularbag, Godda District, (*RRJha* 6640).

Narenga porphyrocoma (Hance) Bor

This perennial grass was earlier collected from Bihar by Kurz, Clarke and Haines (Purneah, 30. 10. 1868, *Kurz* s. n., CAL acc. no. 527469; Parasnath, 4000', 10. 10. 1873, *Clarke* 21085 G, CAL; Singbhum, Dec. 1902, *Haines* 494, CAL). The same has been collected from Shivnarayanpur, Bhagalpur District, (*RRJha* 5841), Narpatganji, Saharsa District, *AKSinha* 705; 714) and Karamtola, Sahibganj District, (*RRJha* 6608, 6617).

Oropetium thomaeum (L. f.) Trin.

Mokim was the first person who collected this annual grass from Bihar (Gaya, Oct. 1894, *Mokim* 1349; Munger, *Mokim* 1416, CAL). This rare grass has now been recollected from Jagarnathpur, Godda District, (*RRJha* 7011).

Panicum antidotale Retz.

Clarke was the only person who collected this perennial, waste-land grass from Bihar (Parasnath, 4000', 2. 10. 1873, *Clarke* 20779 A, CAL). Recently the same was collected from Sahibganj District, Mirzachowki (*RRJha* 7375).

Pseudopogonatherum contortum (Brongn.) A. Camus.

This annual grass was collected by Clarke and Gamble from Bihar (Bundgao, 2000', Singbhum district, 28. 10. 1873, *Clarke* 33835, CAL; Palamu, Dec. 1880, *Gamble* 8789, CAL). This has been recollected from the mixed forest of Kathi-

kund, Dumka District (*NNDas* 3927, *RRJha* 6616) and Angwali, Godda District, (*RRJha* 6722).

***Pseudoraphis brunoniana* Griff.**

This floating grass was first collected by Mokim from Bihar (Gaya, Oct. 1894, *Mokim* 1334, CAL), but it has not been included in *The Botany of Bihar and Orissa* by Haines (1925). The same has been re-collected from a tank at Shibpur, Godda District, (*RRJha* 7071).

***Schoenefedia gracilis* Kunth**

Inclusion of this grass in Haines, *Flora* is solely based on a collection of Anderson (Haines, 1925). We could collect it from Babupur diara, Sahibganj District, (*RRJha* 6781).

***Sporobolus tetragonus* Bor**

The only collection of this annual grass from Bihar was made by Clarke (Rampur ghat, Chotanagpur, 1500'. 19. 10. 1883, *Clarke* s. n., CAL). Now we could

collect this rare grass from Angwali, Godda District, (*RRJha* 6785).

***Sehima nervosum* (Rottl.) Stapf**

C. B. Clarke collected this grass from Ranchi and Hazaribag districts of Bihar (Hazaribag, 1750', 13. 10. 1883, *Clarke* 35791 B; Ranchi, 2000', 16. 10. 1873, *Clarke* 21226 B, CAL). The same has been re-collected along stream banks near Karamtola, Sahibganj District (*RRJha* 5862) and Angwali, Godda District (*RRJha* & *SKVarma* 7290).

***Tragus roxburghii* Panigrahi**

This curious grass was earlier collected from Singbhum by Haines (1925). The authors were able to collect this little grass from Bharjor, Dumka district, (*NNDas* 3636), Kathikund, Dumka district, (*RRJha* 6352), Angwali, Godda district, (*RRJha* 7374) and Mirzachowki, Sahibganj, District, (*RRJha* 6553).

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