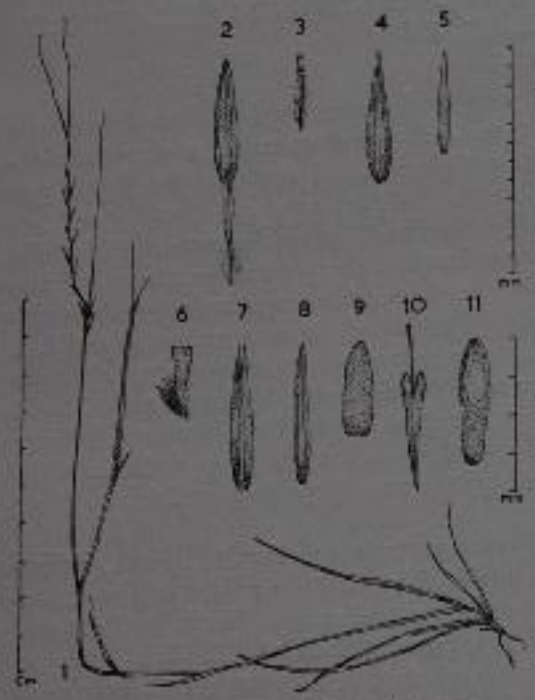
REDISCOVERY OF THE RARE GRASS *PARAHYPARRHENIA BELLARIENSIS* (HACK.) CLAYTON

A critical study of a grass specimen received from Saurashtra University, Rajkot (Gujarat) revealed that the details agreed with the description of *Andropogon bellariensis* Hack., first reported from Anantpur (Andhra Pradesh). Fischer (1934) had transferred the species under *Heteropogon* Pers. effecting the combination *H. bellariensis* (Hack.) C. E. C. Fischer. Recently Clayton (1972) disagreeing with Fischer mentions that the most distinguishing feature of *Heteropogon* Pers. "is the reduction of the pedicel to a little stump, the spikelet being supported on a long slender callus" whereas in *Heteropogon bellariensis* the pedicel is well developed and the pedicelled spikelet has merely a short, oblong callus". Coupled with other differences such as the bidentate fertile lemma and the median groove in the lower glume of the sessile spikelet he considers that the taxon is anomalous under *Heteropogon* Pers., but should be treated under *Parahyparrhenia* A. Camus, a small genus hitherto regarded as restricted to Africa and Thailand only. According to him the name for the species is *Parahyparrhenia bellariensis* (Hack.) Clayton.

Hackel's (1885) description of *Andropogon bellariensis* was based on *Wight* 2321 collected from Gooty fort hill, Anantpur (Andhra Pradesh), and according to Clayton, the type is in Madras, India, and the syntype at Kew. Fischer mentions of another collection by Campbell as well, from the same locality. Efforts were made to locate both *Wight* 2321 & Campbell's specimens at Madras Herbarium, Coimbatore, Central National Herbarium, Calcutta and Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun but no sheet could be traced. To the best of our knowledge there is no record of the species having been re-collected subsequently by any other botanist, even from the type locality. We could not examine the type specimen and though the present two specimens are somewhat depauperated, the characters observed leave no doubt that the Rajkot specimens belong only to *Parahyparrhenia bellariensis*. Though far removed from the type locality, the present specimen has also been collected from a comparable dry habitat. In view of its extreme rarity and lack of any record of its subsequent collection, a brief description with an illustration based on *Bhatkar* 50 is given below to facilitate its further collection from fresh localities along western & peninsular India.

Parahyparrhenia bellariensis (Hack.) Clayton in Kew Bulletin 27(3): 448. 1972. *Andropogon bellariensis* Hack. in Flora 68: 123. 1885; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 7: 201. 1896. *Heteropogon bellariensis* (Hack.) C. E. C. Fischer in Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 10: 1744. 1934; Bor, Grass. Burma, Ceylon, India & Pakistan 163. 1960.

Annual, upto 30 cm tall grass. Culms slender, terete, glabrous. Leaves involute, filiform 3-5 cm long, 1 mm in breadth, glabrous, slightly puberulous above; sheath terete, glabrous. Racemes solitary, 3-5 cm long, slender, partially sheathed; joints ciliate, 2 mm long; pedicels shortly ciliate, 3-5 mm long. Sessile spikelet 4 mm long, glabrous; callus 2 mm long, bearded; lower glume 4 mm long, linear-oblong, 2-toothed, 2-keeled at the apex, with a deep median groove on the dorsal surface; upper glume narrowly oblong-lanceolate, 4 mm long; lower lemma ovate-oblong, 2-5 mm long; upper lemma a hyaline base of an awn, bidentate, 3-25 mm long; awn 5-6 cm long, column hairy; grain 3-5 mm long. Pedicelled spikelet 6-5 mm long, glabrous; callus short, oblong; lower glume linear-lanceolate, 6-5 mm long; upper glume linear, 5-5 mm long. (Figs. 1-11).



Pseudopogonatherum kelleyanum (Hack.) Clayton

Figs. 1-11: 1. General habit. 2. A pair of sessile & pedicelled spikelets. 3-5. Pedicelled spikelet: 3. A pedicel with callus atop 4. Lower glume. 5. Upper glume. 6-11. Sessile spikelet: 6. Callus. 7. Lower glume. 8. Upper glume. 9. Lower lemma. 10. Upper lemma & awn (awn broken). 11. A grain. (*Bhatkar* 50)

However, as per the description given by J. D. Hooker as well as C. E. C. Fischer (*l.c.*), the specimens from the type locality are taller and with generally larger floral features. According to them, the culms are upto 60 cm tall, leaves 7.5-20 cm × 3-4 mm, racemes 5-7.5 cm long, the sessile spikelet 4-6.5 mm long and the pedicelled spikelet 8-8.5 mm long.

Specimens examined: University Campus, Saurashtra University, Rajkot (Gujarat), *Bhatkar* 50, 10th October 1977 (*BSI*: Saurashtra Univ. Herbarium).

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LESCURAEA DARJEELINGENSIS VOHRA AND *HAPLOCLADIUM MICROPHYLLUM* (HEDW.) BROTH. SSP. *CAPILLATUM* (MITT.) REIM. VAR. *BHUTANICUM* VOHRA—TWO NEW TAXA OF MOSSES FROM THE EASTERN HIMALAYAS

In a detailed study of the mosses belonging to the order Hypnobryales (Musci) in the Himalayas, several hitherto undescribed taxa have been discovered. Two of these are described below:

Lescuraea darjeelingensis Vohra sp. nov.

Plantae graciles vel modice robustae, caespites compactos nitidos flavido-virides usque brunneolo-virides formantes. Caules primarii repentes, filiformes, caules secundarii numerosi, erecti vel ascendentes, ± flexuosi vel flagelliformes, 2-3 cm alti; rami pauci, erecti, obtusi, 1.0-1.5 cm alti; caules et rami prope apicem curvati, in sicco julacei. Paraphyllia pauca vel nulla. Folia caulina densa, erecto-patentia usque suberecta, in sicco erecta et adpressa, decurrentia, perconcava, profunde plicata, 1.0-1.5 × 0.7-0.8 mm, ovata, usque ovato-oblonga, acuta vel abrupte ungus ata in acumine brevi, ad marginem recurvata saltem prope apicem, sursum acute serrulata, deorsum integra; nervus flavido-brunneus, folii medi-