

SOME INTERESTING RARE CYPERACEAE OF GUJARAT AS NEW
RECORDS FOR THE ERSTWHILE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

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Our knowledge about the Cyperaceae of the Bombay Presidency is through the works of Cooke (1908), Sedgwick (1918-1921) and Blatter and McCann (1934), Sabnis (1962) has accounted for the Cyperaceae of Gujarat. However, none of these authors has recorded *Eleocharis congesta* Don. and *Scirpus jacobi* Fischer. They are therefore reported here.

Eleocharis congesta D. Don, Prodr. Fl. Nepal. 41. 1825; Clarke in Fl. Brit. Ind. 6 : 630. 1893; Kern in Reinwardtia 6 : 35. 1961. *E. afflata* Steud.; Clarke in Fl. Brit. Ind. 6 : 629. 1893.

This species is distributed in hilly regions of Kashmir, Kumaon, Chhotanagpur and Nilgiris. Its occurrence in Gujarat is interesting, collected from Saurashtra near Junagadh (Vazifdar, without no.). In the herbarium of National Botanic Gardens, Lucknow, sheets bearing accession numbers 21172, 21173, 21174, 21216 and 53441 (all from Saurashtra) have also been indentified as *Eleocharis congesta* D. Don. After a critical examination of these sheets the only sheet bearing accession number 21172, collected by Kaul and party on 17-4-1954 with collector's number 9091, is correctly identified as *E. congesta* D. Don. Other sheets are *Eleocharis atropurpurea* Kunth. From these data, it is clear that the present species definitely occurs in Saurashtra but it is extremely rare. It is not listed by Santapau and Janardhanan, in Flora of Saurashtra—Check list, 1956.

This species at the first sight may be mistaken for *E. palustris* R. Br. with which it resembles in general appearance but the obovoid trigonous nut, three stigmas and the persistent conical style base are typical of *E. congesta* D. Don.

Scirpus jacobi Fischer in Kew Bull. 1931 : 103 and Gamble, Fl. Madras. Pres. 1156. 1957 (reprinted).

This species is collected from moist places along margins of temporary ponds and ditches in association with *Scirpus articulatus* L., *S. lateriflorus* Gmel. and *Isoetes* Sp. at Idar in Sabarkantha district, North Gujarat (Parabia 26, 5-2-1970) and Lunawada in Panchmahals district, East Gujarat Bhatt 2124, 19-12-71). It is not frequent. It may be confused with *S. articulatus* L., with which it resembles in general appearance. The two species can, however, be distinguished by the following key:—

Slender, 15-30 cm tall; stem unseptate or faintly septate when dry; septa when present distant, uncontracted or faintly contracted; sheaths close; spikelets very near the base of the stem, 0.7-1.0 cm across, not situated at the mouth of the sheath; glume not keeled; nut 0.1-0.12 cm long, obtusely trigonous, with 8-10 strong transverse, undulate ridges. *S. jacobi*

Robust, 0.60 cm tall; stem septate when dry; septa close, constricted; sheath lax; spikelets 1-4.5 cm across, generally relatively much higher above the base of the stem, mostly situated at the mouth of the sheath or slightly above it; glume keeled; nut 0.14-0.16 cm long, obtusely trigonous, with 16-20 more or less pronounced transverse wavy lines *S. articulatus*.

Fischer in Gamble's Flora of Madras describes the position of the spikes as "arising immediately above the mouth of the sheath". In our specimens (preserved in FAA and herbarium specimens), however, the spikelets are distinctly situated about the middle or in basal part of sheaths. It is interesting to note that Gujarat is the sole locality of its distribution outside the erstwhile Madras Presidency.

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