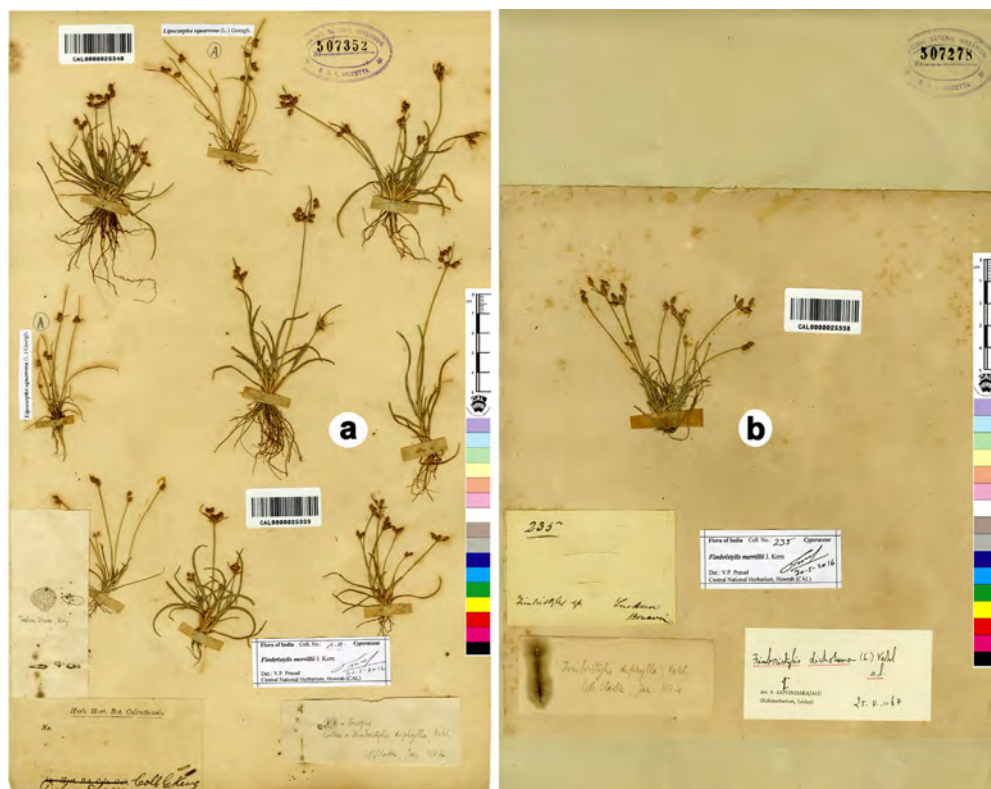


MERRILL'S FIMBRY

First record of *Fimbristylis merrillii* from northern India



IUCN Red List:

Global – Least
Concern
(Watve 2011)

Images of the
specimens of
Fimbristylis merrillii
J. Kern from
Uttarakhand (a) and
Uttar Pradesh (b).

Plantae

(Plant Kingdom)

Tracheophyta

(Phylum of vascular plants)

Poales

(Order of grasses, bromeliads
and sedges)

Cyperaceae

(Family of sedges)

Fimbristylis merrillii

(Merrill's Fimbr)

Species described by J. Kern
in 1955

The Malasian species *Fimbristylis merrillii* J. Kern was reported for the first time from the western states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka in India (Mistry & Almeida 1987). Incidentally, *F. ligulata* described by Govindarajalu (1972) as a new species from Maharashtra is a heterotypic synonym of *F. merrillii*. Recently Prasad (2016) reported the extended distribution of the species in eastern and central India on the basis of collections from West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh housed at CAL. He has also reported it from the southern state of Telangana (Prasad 2016). While studying the specimens of *Fimbristylis* species at CAL it was found that some of the representative specimens of *F. merrillii* from Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh were erroneously identified as *F. diphylla* (Retz.) Vahl, a synonym of *F. dichotoma* (L.) Vahl. *Fimbristylis merrillii* is hitherto known to occur in western (Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra), eastern (West Bengal), central (Madhya Pradesh) and southern (Karnataka, Telangana) parts of

the country (Prasad 2016). Hence, it is reported here as new report for northern India from Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh on the basis of earlier collections.

A brief description of the species along with nomenclatural citations and distribution data is provided here.

Fimbristylis merrillii J. Kern, *Blumea* 8: 135, f. 6. 1955; Mistry & S.M. Almeida, *J. Econ. Taxon. Bot.* 9: 403, f. A–G. 1987; Karthik. *et al.*, *Fl. Ind. Enum. Monocot. I (Addenda & Corrigenda)*. 1989; V.P. Prasad & N.P. Singh, *Sedges Karnataka (J. Econ. Taxon. Bot. Addit. Ser. 21)* 189, f. 30. 2002; Wad. Khan, *Cyperaceae W. Ghats, W. Coast & Maharashtra* 210. 2015. Type: Philippines, Province of Bulacan, Luzon, *M. Ramos* 1431 (Holotype, NY, image!). *F. ligulata* Govind. in *Proc. Indian Acad. Sci.* 76 B: 187, t. 3. 1972. Type: India, Maharashtra, Borivili National Park, Bombay, Fernandez 1885. (Holotype, BLAT!). *F. merrillii* var. *majalgaonsis* Wad.Khan, *Bioinfolet* 5: 103. 2008. Type: India: Maharashtra state, Beed Dist., Siras Devi Road, *W. Khan* 4152 (Isotype, CAL !).

Annual with tufted culms, 6–20 cm high. Leaves mostly basal, shorter than culm; ligule a dense fringe of short hairs. Inflorescence simple to compound, loose with three to several spikelets. Involucral bracts 1–3, usually shorter than inflorescence, at times slightly overtopping. Spikelets solitary, terete, ovoid or broadly oblong-ovoid, acute at apex, 3–4 × c. 2mm, densely few to several-flowered; rachilla narrowly winged. Glumes spiral, broadly ovate, acute at apex,

slightly apiculate, 1.5–1.8 × c. 1.5 mm; keel not prominent. Stamens 1 or

2; filaments up to 1.7mm

long; anthers oblong, c. 0.5mm long. Style c. 1mm long, glabrous or with few cilia towards apex; stigmas 2, shorter than style. Achene biconvex, obovate, 0.8–1 × 0.6–0.8 mm, shortly stipitate, minutely umbonulate, trabeculate; epidermal cells transversally oblong, in 5–8 vertical rows.

Distribution: Australia, Malesia, Thailand and Vietnam. INDIA: Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Specimens examined: India, Uttarakhand, Dehradun, *G. King* s.n. Acc. No. 507352 (CAL). Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, *Bouavin* 235 (CAL).

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Global Distribution:
Australia, China, India,
Philippines, Thailand,
Malaysia

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