

New distribution record of *Dimeria connivens* Hack. (Poales: Poaceae) and addition to the flora of Karnataka



Dimeria connivens Hack.: a - habitat, b - habit, c - raceme, d - leaf blade and ligule, e - rachis, f - spikelet, g - glume, h - palea with awn, caryopsis, and anther. Photo by H.U. Abhijit.

The genus *Dimeria* belongs to the subtribe Dimerinae. This genus is globally represented by 65 species commonly distributed in tropical Asian regions, among which 40 are found in India (Bor 1960; Kiran Raj et al. 2015). In India, the genus was recorded from Odisha, Bihar, and Maharashtra (Bor 1960; Potdar et al. 2012). This paper presents the first record of the species from Karnataka.

In 2017 Chandramohan & Prasanna reported a new variety of *Dimeria connivens* Hack. var. *roxburghiana* Mohan & Prasanna based on the width of the rachis and glume shape, but this is not a unique character for varietal

separation and this variety does not exist in Plant list.

Dimeria Robert Brown (1810) is a well-known paleotropical grass characterized by solitary spikelets, tough and flat raceme rachis, keeled glumes, absence of tuft of hairs above the middle on the back, and equal and divergent binate racemes. These key characters separate the *Dimeria* genus from other andropogons genera (Kiran Raj 2008; Potdar et al. 2012; Chandramohan et al. 2017). The authors collected and prepared herbarium specimens and deposited them in the Western Regional Center, Botanical

Survey of India, Pune, and also in the Department of Applied Botany, Kuvempu University, Karnataka.

Dimeria connivens Hack. in DC. Monogr. Phan. 6: 689. 1889; Hook. F., Fl. British. India 7: 104. 1896; Bor, Grass. Burma Ceylon India Pakistan 140. 1960; Laxmi. In Sharma et al. (eds.) Fl. Maharashtra Monocot. 467. 1996; S. Moulik, Grass. Bamb. India 1; 281. 1997; Naik, Fl. Marathawada 2: 1023. 1998.

Annual erect herb with 10–40 cm height. Nodal region of the culms having hairs, leaf sheath terete and having tubercle-based hairs, leaf blade 8–10 cm long and 0.2–0.3 cm wide, linear, ovate, acuminate apex. Raceme 2, erect, 2.5–3.0 cm long. Spikelets awned, length 4.4mm without awn and 10mm with awn. Rachis flattened, 1mm long. Lower glumes sub-coriaceous, narrowly ovate, 3.5–4.0 mm × 0.4–0.5 mm, 2-keeled, keels hairy, slightly corky winged. Upper glume sub-coriaceous, oblong, 3.8–4.0 mm × 0.8–1.0 mm, 1-keeled, 1-nerved, corky winged with long hairs. Lower lemma hyaline, narrowly obovate, ciliated margin 1.5mm × 0.1mm, nerveless, acute apex. Palea absent. Upper lemma membranous, elliptic and two-toothed apex, geniculated awn arises from the sinus 6–8 mm long. Palea hyaline, narrowly ovate. Lodicules 2. Stamens 2, anthers 1.0mm × 0.2mm. Pistil 1.5mm long (Potdar et al. 2012).

Flowering and fruiting: August–October.

Habitat: Open rocky areas of dry deciduous forests.

IUCN Red List status: Data Deficient

Specimens examined: KUABYLK-453, 06 ex., 21.ix.2018, India, Karnataka, Chikkamagalur, near Pura Reserve Forest and parallel to Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Maridibba-Balekoppa Road, 13.719°N, 75.546°E, 706m (3m error), coll. H.U. Abhijit.

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