

CONTRIBUTION TO THE GRASS FLORA OF GUJARAT STATE

DHARA GANDHI, SUSY ALBERT AND NEETA PANDYA

The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, (Gujarat)
E-mail: drsusyalbert@rediffmail.com

ABSTRACT

The documentation of grasses in the different forest area of Gujarat State was explored. The documentation of grasses in the different forest areas of Gujarat State was explored. Especially in Saurashtra and Central Gujarat, Grass species were collected. Detailed morphological characterization of the vegetative and reproductive parts were carried out using dissecting and binocular microscope (Olympus microscope-SZ2-ILST). Identified species were further confirmed at Blatter Herbaria (St. Xavier's College, Mumbai).

Key words: Grasses, Gujarat, Addition of species.

Introduction

Grasses from Western India has been accounted by Blatter and McCann (1935). Further Patel (1965) gave a great contribution to the Flora of Gujarat. He reported 90 genera and 203 species of grass diversity from Gujarat. Some of the other major contributions added to the Flora of Gujarat are by Santapau and Janardhan (1967); Shah (1978); Raghavan *et al.* (1981); Bole and Pathak (1988); Pandey and Padhye (1997, 2005, 2006); Gandhi and Yusufzai (1999); Pandey (2001, 2002); Meena and Pandey (2004); Meena (2004, 2005, 2007); Gohil (2006); Gohil and Patel (2006) and Desai and Raole (2011, 2012, 2013). Shah (1978) reported 89 genera and 235 species of grasses in Flora of Gujarat. Gandhi and Yusufzai (1999) recorded 79 genera and 184 species in Grasses of Gujarat and these numbers are increased up to 105 genera and 295 species which were added by different taxonomist. In Gujarat, *Eragrostis*, *Panicum*, *Ischaemum*, *Aristida*, *Digitaria*, *Sporobolus*, *Cymbopogon*, *Arthraxon* like genera are majorly found, contributing up to around 30.5% grass diversity of the State. Perusal of the available literature till recent (2014) indicates that these grasses have not been recorded so far from the state of Gujarat. The following identified five species of grasses forms new additions to the Poaceae members of Gujarat flora.

Material and Methods

During our extensive field exploration for the documentation of grasses in the different forest areas of Gujarat State, especially Saurashtra and Central Gujarat, Grass species were collected, dissected and identified with the help of different floras (Flora of Gujarat, The Bombay Grasses, Flora of Bombay Presidency, Flora of Maharashtra, Flora of Saurashtra, Grasses of Gujarat). Detailed morphological characterization of the vegetative and reproductive parts were carried out using dissecting and binocular microscope (Olympus microscope-SZ2-ILST). Identified species were further confirmed at Blatter Herbaria (St. Xavier's College, Mumbai) (Table 1). Voucher specimens have been submitted to BARO Herbarium, Vadodara, Gujarat. Photographs of the inflorescences depicting the morphological features were taken with the help of DSC-T20 and are represented in Fig. 1.

Results and Discussion

1. ***Cenchrus prieurii* (Kunth) Maire**, Bull. Nus. Matl. Hist. Nut., II, 3: 523 1931; *Pennisetum prieurii* Kunth. Revis. Gram. 2: 411. T. 119. 1831; Sultan and Stewart, Grasses W. Pakistan 1:59, 1958; Bor, Burma, Ceylon, Grasses. India, Pakistan 290. 1960.

Table 1: List of studied grasses

Sr. No.	Plant name	Blatter herbaria no.
1.	<i>Cenchrus prieurii</i>	87448
2.	<i>Dactyloctenium giganteum</i>	83348
3.	<i>Heteropogon contortus</i> var. <i>genuinus</i> sub var. <i>typicus</i>	85546
4.	<i>Heteropogon contortus</i> var. <i>genuinus</i> sub var. <i>hispidissimus</i>	85463
5.	<i>Oropetium villosulum</i>	85247

Addition of 5 grass species to the flora of Gujarat state.