

A NEW RECORD OF UROCHONDRA (POACEAE) FROM OF IRAN

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The specimens of *Urochondra setulosa* from Poaceae were collected for the first time from Southeast of Iran, in the coastal hills of Oman Sea in Balochestan Province. It is specific in the area, because of being a halotolerant, termophile species and having two regeneration mechanisms, by seed and rhizome.

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Key words: *Urochondra setulosa*; Balochestan; Oman Sea; Coastal hills; Iran

گزارش گونه جدیدی از جنس *Urochondra* از تیره **Poaceae** از جنوب شرق برای ایران
مهري دیناروند: استادیار پژوهشی، بخش تحقیقات جنگل‌ها و مراتع، مرکز تحقیقات و آموزش کشاورزی و منابع طبیعی استان خوزستان، سازمان تحقیقات، آموزش و ترویج کشاورزی، اهواز، ایران
حمید هویزه: مربی پژوهشی، بخش تحقیقات جنگل‌ها و مراتع، مرکز تحقیقات و آموزش کشاورزی و منابع طبیعی استان خوزستان، سازمان تحقیقات، آموزش و ترویج کشاورزی، اهواز، ایران
طی مطالعه پوشش گیاهی منطقه گرمسیری، حاشیه خلیج فارس و دریای عمان، نمونه‌هایی از گونه *Urochondra setulosa* متعلق به تیره گندمیان برای اولین بار به صورت خودرو از ساحل خور تنگ، جاده جاسک به چابهار جمع‌آوری شد. بنابراین به عنوان رکوردی جدید از جنوب شرق برای فلور ایران معرفی می‌شود. این گونه به دلیل تحمل شوری آب دریا، دمای بالا، داشتن دو نوع زادآوری توسط بذر و ریزوم و تعلیف دام، از اهمیت خاصی در منطقه برخوردار است.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Urochondra* from Poaceae family and Sporoboleae tribe with a single species (*Urochondra setulosa*) is a halophytic species of marine and saline flats. This species is native in coastal regions of Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Socotra, Arabia, Pakistan (Sind) and Northwest India (Cope, 1982). Bor (1970) in Flora Iranica area has reported *Urochondra setulosa* only from Pakistan (Makran and Karachi). The specimens of *Urochondra setulosa* were collected for the first time from Southeast of Iran, in the coastal hills of Oman Sea in Balochestan Province.

Urochondra setulosa (Trin.) C.E. Hubbard in Hook., Icon. Pl. 35: t. 3457. 1947.

Specimen examined: Balochestan Province: Road of Jask to Chabahar, Khore-Tang region, in the coastal hills X: 791269, Y: 2807612, 0 m, Howizeh & Hoshmandzadeh, 10960 TARI and Khuzestan Agricultural and Natural Resources Research and Education Center Herbarium.

Caespitose, with rhizome and rigid culms, less than 40 cm high, pale green, erect or ascending, Stems articulate, with parallel veins, densely pubescent and minutely glandular. Leaf-blades involute, up to 20 cm long and 5 mm wide, rigid, minutely pilose, acute with short awn. Inflorescence a narrow cylindrical panicle, 3.5-6 cm long and 4-5 mm wide, with very short branches. Spikelets compressed, 2 to 3 flowered, oblong

or obovate-oblong, 2-3 mm long; glumes linear-oblong to lanceolate-oblong, acute or obtuse, ciliate at the margin; the lower 1.5-2.5 mm long, the upper 2.6-3 mm long; lemma obtuse, 1-nerved, 2.5-3 mm long, mucronate or shortly aristate. Palea almost equal to the lemma, 2-nerved. Stamens 3. Stigma plumose, dark brown (fig. 1).

Distribution: Iran (Southeast), Pakistan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Socotra (Yemen), Northwest India (fig. 2).

Urochondra setulosa has a high potential to be utilized

as a forage crop that could be grown under seawater irrigation. This grass appears to be highly salt tolerant and its seeds have the ability to tolerate high salinity while in the soil and if the soil salinity is reduced when a suitable temperature regime is present, they will be able to germinate under natural conditions (Gulzar & al., 2001). On the other hand, this species has asexual reproduction by rhizome. Based on the above mentioned characteristics, it is a magic halophyte grass occurring in tropical coastal area.



Fig. 1. *Urochondra setulosa* in subtidale of Khore Tang (Photo by Howizeh).



Fig. 2. Map of world distribution of *Urochondra setulosa*.

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