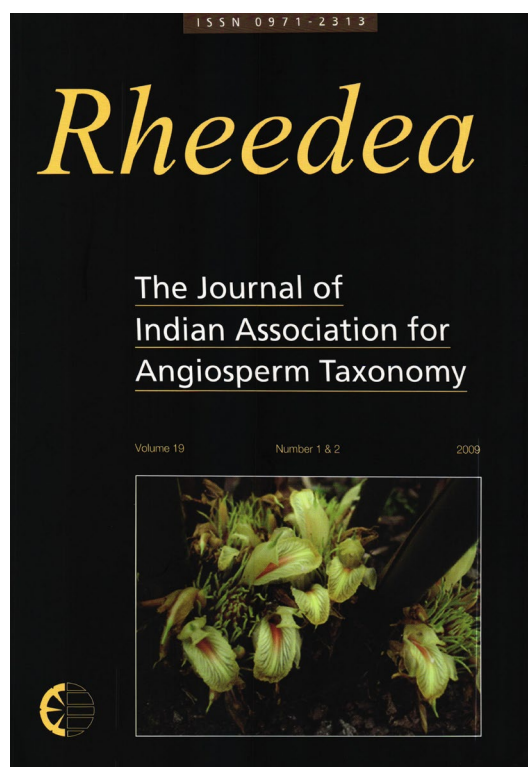




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How to cite:

Shimpale V.B., Bhagat R.B., Deshmukh R.B. & S.R. Yadav 2009. A New Species of *Eriocaulon* (Eriocaulaceae) from Maharashtra, India. *Rheedia* 19(1&2): 47-49.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.22244/rheedia.2009.19.01.10>

Received: 15.05.2008

Revised and accepted: 08.06.2009

Published in print: 30.12.2009

Published Online: 30.12.2009

A New Species of *Eriocaulon* (Eriocaulaceae) from Maharashtra, India

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Abstract

Eriocaulon baramaticum Shimpale, Bhagat, R. B. Deshmukh et S. R. Yadav a new species from Baramati Tahsil of Pune District of Maharashtra is described and illustrated. It is similar to *E. rajendrababui* R. Ansari & N. P. Balakr. and differs in having male flowers with two free sepals and glandular petals.

Keywords: *Eriocaulon baramaticum*, New Species, Maharashtra, India

Introduction

The genus *Eriocaulon* L. represented by c. 400 species is distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of both hemispheres (Mabberley, 2008). Karthikeyan *et al.* (1989) listed 72 species, 14 varieties and 1 forma from India. Systematic account on the genus in India by Ansari & Balakrishnan (1994) dealt 65 species to which several new species have been added in the last decade. Presently, the genus *Eriocaulon* is represented in India by about 90 species. Gaikwad & Yadav (2002) reported 40 species of the genus from Maharashtra State. Nine novelties have been added to the State of Maharashtra during last decade (Yadav *et al.*, 1998; Gaikwad *et al.*, 2002; Punekar *et al.*, 2003, 2004; Punekar & Lakshminarasimhan, 2004; Yadav *et al.*, 2008). During floristic survey of Baramati Tahsil of Pune district, some interesting specimens of *Eriocaulon* were collected. On critical analysis, they turned out to be a hitherto undescribed species, which is described and illustrated here.

Eriocaulon baramaticum Shimpale, Bhagat, R. B. Deshmukh et S. R. Yadav, *sp. nov.* **Fig. 1**

Eriocauloni rajendrababui R. Ansari & N. P. Balakr. similis, flore masculino sepalis 2 (rarissime 3) semper liberis, petalis sine glandula atra, floris feminei petalis 0.8 – 1.2 cm longis, seminibus apiculatis caudatis differt.

Typus: INDIA, Maharashtra, Pune District, Baramati Tahsil, Wagalwadi, 20.9.2007, Shimpale 5554 (Holotypus, CAL; Isotypii, BSI, MH, SUK).

Erect, annual, acaulescent herbs, 20 – 25 cm high. Leaves rosulate, linear, acuminate, up to 5 cm long, glabrous. Peduncles few to many, up to 20 cm long, virgate, angled below the receptacle. Sheaths 3 – 5 cm long, glabrous; limbs lanceolate, entire, acute. Heads ovoid, c. 2 mm across, grey or black; receptacles obpyriform, glabrous. Involucral bracts erect, 1.8 – 2 × 0.8 – 1 mm, elliptic-ovate, obtuse, dentate, chartaceous, glabrous. Floral bracts 2 – 2.5 × 0.5 – 1 mm, obovate, acute, entire, black or grey, few-haired at apex. Male flowers: subsessile; sepals 2 (rarely 3), free, 1 – 1.2 × 0.1 – 0.2 mm, falcate, acute, glabrous or with few hairs at apex; petals 3, elliptic-ovate, hyaline, subequal, obtuse, 0.2 – 0.3 × 0.1 – 0.2 mm, glabrous, eglandular; stipe with a black gland at mouth region; stamens 6; anthers black. Female flowers: subsessile; pedicels c. 0.1 mm long; sepals 3, free, subequal, falcate, acuminate, sparsely hairy at apex, 0.8 – 1.2 × 0.1 – 0.2 mm; petals 3, free, unequal, one petal slightly longer than others, 0.8 – 1 × 0.05 – 0.1 mm, two smaller up to 0.8 mm long, narrowly obovate, eglandular, almost glabrous or rarely with 2 or 3 hairs at apex, obtuse, hyaline; ovary ovoid-ellipsoid; style 3-fid. Seeds brown, elliptic, 0.3 – 0.4 × 0.1 – 0.2 mm, apiculate at base, tailed at apex;

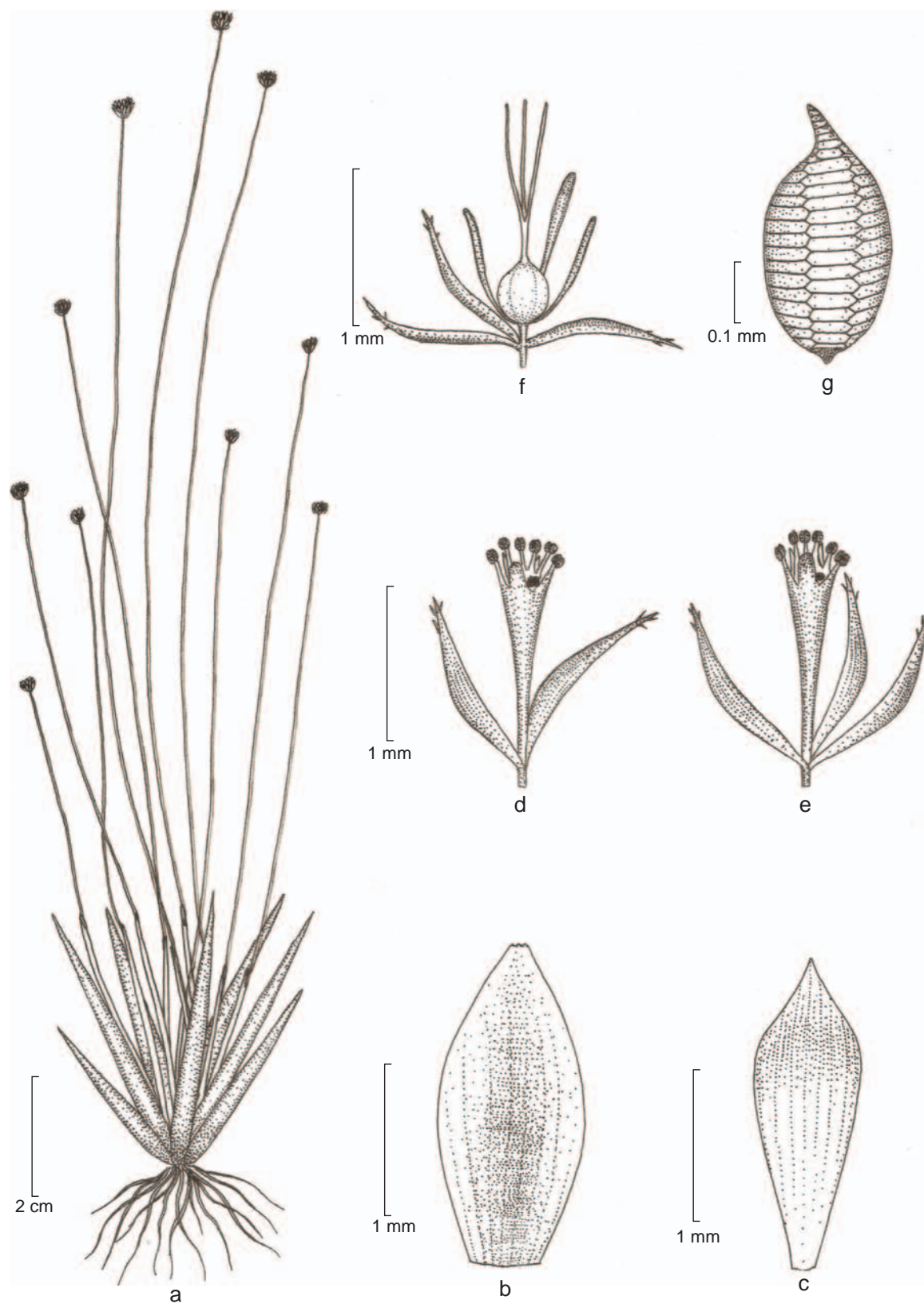


Figure 1. *Eriocaulon baramaticum* Shimpale *et al.* *sp. nov.*: a. Habit; b. Involucral bract; c. Floral bract; d, e. Male flowers; f. Female flower; g. Seed.

seed coat cells transversely elongated, arranged in vertical rows, without appendages.

Similar to *Eriocaulon rajendrababui* R. Ansari & N. P. Balakr. but differs in having male flowers with 2 free sepals (very rarely 3) and eglandular petals; petals of female flowers 0.8 – 1.2 mm long and tailed seeds (as against glandular petals in male flowers, 0.5 – 0.8 mm long petals in female flowers and non-tailed seeds in *E. rajendrababui*).

Etymology: The specific epithet 'baramaticum' is after the type locality, Baramati in Pune District.

Flowering & Fruiting: September – December.

Habitat: Grows in open areas on the rocky beds of streams, associated with *Dichanthium annulatum* (Forssk.) Stapf, *Hoppea dichotoma* Willd., *Lindernia oppositifolia* (L.) Mukerjee, *Flaveria trinervia* (Spreng.) C. Mohr, *Echinochloa colona* (L.) Link, *Dipcadi saxorum* Blatt., *Fimbristylis* and *Eleocharis* species.

Status: Rare; presently known only from its type locality.

Acknowledgements

The authors are thankful to The Principal, The New College, Kolhapur; Director, Agharkar Research Institute, Pune; Principal, Shardabai Pawar Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Baramati and Head, Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, for providing lab facilities. Also grateful to Dr. G. G. Potdar, for the illustration; Dr. J. F. Veldkamp, Rijksherbarium, Leiden, Netherlands for Latin diagnosis.

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Received: 15.5.2008

Revised and Accepted: 8.6.2009