

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *Jansenella neglecta* Yadhav et al., and *Polypogon nilgiricus* Kabeer & V.J.Nair (Poaceae) FROM THE NILGIRIS, TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT:

The present paper reports *Jansenella neglecta* Yadhav et al., for the first time to the State of Tamil Nadu and the occurrence of endemic species, *Polypogon nilgiricus* Kabeer & V.J.Nair from outside the type locality.

Key words: Poaceae, *Jansenella*, *Polypogon*, neo-endemic, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Department of Botany has carried out research work in the endemic plants of the Nilgiris in connection with UGC major Research Project and it resulted in the collection of two endemic grasses *Polypogon nilgiricus* Kabeer (2008) and *Jansenella neglecta* Yadhav et al. (2010). It is found that the above two species are not included in the previous work published by the earlier botanists like Sharma et.al., (1977) and Henry et.al., (1989). It is reported in this paper that *Jansenella neglecta* Yadhav et al. as a new record for Tamilnadu and showing an extended distribution towards south in the Western Ghats from Northern Western Ghats of Maharashtra. Similarly, *Polypogon nilgiricus* Kabeer & V.J.Nair, an endemic species collected from outside the type locality. The voucher specimens are deposited in the Herbarium of Department of Botany, Bharathiar University (BU), Coimbatore for future reference. The genus *Jansenella* Bor is represented by two species in the world (Mabberly, 2008; Yadhav et al., 2010) and two species in India (Bor, 1960; Yadhav et al., 2010). In the State of Tamilnadu, the genus is represented by only one species i.e., *J. griffithiana* (C.Mueller) Bor. (Nair, 1989; Kabeer & Nair, 2004).

2. PLANT DESCRIPTION:

Jansenella neglecta Yadhav et al., in Rheedeae, 20(1): 38-43.2010.

Tufted annuals. Culms erect or creeping, 3-25 cm high; terate, nodes glabrous, lower nodes rooting. Leaf blade elliptic or lanceolate, 3-5.5×0.5-0.7 cm long, acuminate at apex, cordate or amplexicaul at base with tubercule based hairs. Ligule arch shaped. Panicle 1.5-4.5 cm long, capitate, compact. Peduncles 8-14 cm long, more or less ribbed, hairy towards apex. Spikelets ovate-lanceolate, 5-8×1-2 mm long. Lower glume ovate - lanceolate, 3.5-4×1 mm, acuminate, chartaceous, hairy, 3-nerved. Upper glume oblong lanceolate, 5-8×1-1.3 mm,

caudate, acuminate, aristate at apex, 3-5 nerved. Lower floret male, female, bisexual or barren. Lower lemma oblong to lanceolate, 4-5×1-2 mm, acuminate, 5 nerved. Palea oblong, 2-2.2×0.5-0.6 mm, hairy, delicate, hyaline. Upper floret bisexual. Upper lemma oblong lanceolate, 3.8-4×0.8-1.2 mm, notched membranous, 3 awned at apex. Palea linear oblong, 1.8-2.6×0.4-0.6 mm, notched, bifid at apex, hairy on dorsal side. Stamens 3; anthers 0.5-1 mm, yellow. Pistil 1.2-1.4 mm long; style tubular, bifid, 0.5-1 mm long; stigma plumose, 0.5-1 mm long. Fruit caryopsis, 1.2×0.3-0.4 mm, obovate, acute to obtuse at apex, greenish brown, hilum basal.

Fl. & Fr. : Oct-Dec

Distribution : Western Ghats

Ecology : Dripping rocks

Specimen examined : Tamilnadu, Nilgiris: Naduvattum, 1940 m, 14 November 2012, V.S.Ramachandran, 5401 (BU).

Notes : Reported for the first time from the state of Tamil Nadu.

Polypogon nilgircus Kabeer & V.J.Nair, Nord. J. Bot. 25: 9.2008; Kabeer & V.J.Nair, Grass Fl. Tamilnadu 86. 2009.

Tufted perennial; culms decumbent, upto 50 cm high. Leaf blade linear-lanceolate, 5-30×0.6-1 cm, acuminate at apex, rounded to truncate at base, flat, scabrellate dorsally and along margins; ligule lanceolate, 0.8-1.4 cm long, acute at apex, lacerate at maturity, membranous, glabrous; leaf sheath terete, margins hyaline, glabrous. Inflorescence a panicle, 6-13×2-6 cm; peduncle terete, 10-30 cm long, glabrous; rachis more or less ribbed scabrellate. Racemes many, 1.5-3.5 cm long, usually whorled, at times lower ones with secondary branches, ascending and congested when young, spreading at maturity. Spikelets solitary, pedicelled, oblong, 1.8-2×ca 0.8 mm, laterally compressed, deciduous along with the pedicels; pedicels terete, 0.6-0.8 mm long, scabrid throughout. Glumes similar, exceeding floret; divergent when mature. Lower glume oblong, 1.8-2×ca.0.4 mm, acute to emarginate with awn at apex, greenish, prominently 1-nerved, 1-keeled, scabrous dorsally and on keel, the margins hispidulous; awn 2-3 mm long, straight to curved, barbellate. Upper glume similar to the lower one. Floret 1, bisexual, usually up to half of glumes; floret callus glabrous. Lemma oblong, ca 1-0.3 mm, acute to 4-fid with excurrent nerves at apices, membranous, smooth, faintly 5-nerved, margins incurved; awn from sinus, 1.2-1.4 mm long, barbellate. Palea as long as the lemma, membranous, hyaline, faintly 2-nerved, at times 2-keeled. Lodicules 2, lanceolate, 0.2-0.3 mm long, membranous, hyaline. Stamens 3; anthers ca 0.2 mm long, yellowish; filaments hyaline. Ovary obovate, ca 0.3 mm long, yellowish; style short; stigma plumose, whitish to yellowish.

Fl. & Fr.: Jan. – Mar.

Distribution: Nilgiris (Localized endemics)

Ecology: Common in the water logged localities.

Specimen examined: Tamilnadu, Nilgiris: Avalanche, 2250 m, 28 February 2012, V.S.Ramachandran, 2310 (BU).

Notes: This endemic grass was described by Kabeer & Nair (*l.c*) from Manjacombai, it has also been recorded in Kotagiri, Upper Bhavani, Doddabetta, Ooty – Kotagiri (Mani, 2011) main road Nilgiris in the year 2008. While working on the endemic plants of Nilgiris the authors could able to locate this grass from Avalanche indicates its wider range distribution within Nilgiris and reveals that it is one of the common elements wild occurrence in aquatic situations at upper Nilgiris.

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