

**Rediscovery of a long lost Monotypic, Endemic Grass Genus *Hubbardia*
Bor of Western Ghats**

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Abstract

During our field survey on grasses and bamboos of Maharashtra, a monotypic endemic grass genus viz. *Hubbardia* Bor which was considered probably extinct has been recollected after about eight decades from Tillari ghat of Kolhapur district. This forms the only collection outside type locality. The present paper reports on occurrence, distribution and morphology of genus *Hubbardia* Bor. This critically endangered grass needs immediate conservation measures.

INTRODUCTION

During 1950's, Rev. Father H. Santapau placed the grass collections of Sedgewick at the disposal of N. L. Bor. Bor (1951) described a new genus (*Hubbardia* Bor) of Indian grasses from Sedgewick's collections. There are two sheets of Sedgewick's no.-7089 at BLAT and perhaps one actually the Holotype, which is presumed to be located at Kew. Two further gathering of the same species are known which were collected by Hallberg and McCann at the same place, Jog, Gersoppa Falls, in the same month and the year as Sedgewick's collection i.e. October 1919. According to M. R. Almeida (personal communication), these 2 specimens attributed to Hallberg and McCann may be from same collection of L. J. Sedgewick. Bor (1960) remarks. "This striking species has been collected on two occasions only and in the same place, namely, the rocks constantly moistened by spray in the vicinity of the famous Gersoppa Falls on the Sharavati River, which forms the boundary between the States of Bombay and Mysore". Due to construction of dam on the River Sharavati and drying of Jog Falls in summer, the species disappeared from the region and reported to be probably extinct (Ahmedullah and Nayar, 1986; Nayar, 1996; Cook, 1996).