

24. NEW GENERIC RECORDS OF GRASSES FOR MAHARASHTRA

1500 specimens of about 300 species of grasses and bamboos have been collected during our extensive field survey over the past three years. Some of the specimens collected from Gondiya district of Maharashtra were of *Diectomis fastigiata*; specimens collected from Ajara of Kolhapur district were identified as *Lepturus radicans*. As both *Diectomis* and *Lepturus* form new generic records for the state, a detailed description along with illustration and field notes are presented in this paper. The specimens have been deposited in the herbarium of Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Monotypic genus *Diectomis* Kunth is widely distributed in China, Myanmar, tropical America, Africa and India.

Diectomis fastigiata (Sw.) Kunth in Humb. Et Bonpl., nov. gen. et Sp. 1, 193 (1816) t. 64; Bor, Grass. Bur. Ceyl. Ind. Pak. 135. 1960; Moulik, Grass. Bam. Ind. 1:275. 1997. *Andropogon fastigiata* Swartz, Prodr. Veg. Ind. Occ. 26, 1788; Hook. F., Fl. Brit. India 7: 167, 1896 (Fig. 1).

Annual. Culms terete, erect or geniculate at base, 20-80 cm high; nodes glabrous. Leaf: Sheaths terete, 1.5-5 cm long, glabrous; ligule membranous, 3.5-4 mm long; blades linear, 2.5-20 x 0.1-0.2 cm long, glabrous, setaceous. Raceme single, enclosed by spathe, 2-3.5 cm long, joints turbinate, slightly compressed, 2.6-3 mm long, ciliate on both margins with white hairs. Callus short, bearded. Sessile spikelets coriaceous, linear-lanceolate, 3.3-4 x 0.4-0.5 mm. Lower glume coriaceous, linear-lanceolate, 3.8-4 x 0.4-0.5 mm, 6-nerved, deeply grooved on the back, 2-keeled, ciliate in the groove in upper half, apex 2-toothed. Upper glume coriaceous, boat shaped, 3.3-3.5 x 0.8-0.9 mm, 3-nerved, 1-keeled; keels ciliate, running into a capillary, 10-12 mm long awn, apex 2-toothed. Lower lemma membranous, ovate-lanceolate, 2.8-3 x 0.4-0.5 mm, strongly 2-keeled, 2-nerved, deeply grooved on the back, margins ciliate, apex obtuse, epaleate. Upper lemma membranous, boat shaped 2.6-2.7 x 0.6-0.7 mm 1-nerved, apex 2-fid, awned from the sinus; awn 20-25 mm long, scaberulous. Palea hyaline, oblong-elliptic, 2-2.2 x 0.4-0.5 mm, nerveless, obtuse, stamens 3; anthers 0.8-1.0 x 0.2-0.3 mm, ovary linear, 0.4-0.5 x 0.2-0.3 mm. Lodicules 2, cuneate, 0.4-0.5 mm. Caryopsis elliptic-obovate, 1.7-1.8 x 0.4-0.5 mm. Pedicle of pedicelled spikelet turbinate, slightly compressed, 2.3-2.5 mm, densely ciliate on the margins. Pedicelled spikelet ovate-

lanceolate, 6.8-7 mm long. Lower glume membranous, ovate-lanceolate, 6.8-7 x 1.5-1.7 mm, 15-nerved, central nerve distinct, 2-keeled; keels obscurely winged, scabrid, 2-toothed at apex, median awn 5 mm long. Upper glume membranous, ovate-lanceolate, 3.2-3.4 x 0.4-0.5 mm, 5-nerved, 1-keeled, slightly 2-toothed at apex, awned; awn 3 mm long, ciliate on margins. Lemma membranous, ovate-lanceolate, 1.8-2 x 0.3-0.4 mm, nerveless, margins ciliate, acute, epaleate.

Growing in sandy soil and on rocky slopes.

Fl. & Fr.: September-November.

Note: *Diectomis fastigiata* has been reported from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. It grows in sandy soils and on rocky slopes in Gondiya district in Eastern Maharashtra. It is a very good fodder grass in young stages before the awns begin to form (Bor 1960). It turns red as it dries. It is very distinct in its 15-nerved lower glume of pedicelled spikelet.

Exsiccata: Borkanhar (Gondiya District) Potdar 1477, Mandodevi (Gondiya District) Potdar 1482.

Genus *Lepturus* R. Br. with about 8 species is distributed in coastal east Africa, Madagascar to Australia and Polynesia. So far, *Lepturus radicans* is the only species reported for India from Karnataka, which was recently collected from Maharashtra.

Lepturus radicans (Steud.) A. Camus in Ann. Soc. Linn. Lyon, 1922, n.s., 69, 87 (1923); Bor, Grass. Bur. Ceyl. Ind. Pak. 585. 1960; Moulik, Grass. Bamb. Ind. 2: 463. 1997 (Fig. 2).

Perennial, stoloniferous. Culms prostrate, 10-30 cm high, rooting at nodes, nodes glabrous. Leaf; sheath terete, 1-4 cm long, glabrous, ligule membranous 0.5-0.8 mm long; blades linear, 3-12 x 0.2-0.6 cm long, glabrous, base with bulbous based hairs. Spike single, 2-6 cm long. Joints not breaking easily, 3 mm long, joints hollow on one side alternately. Spikelets sessile, coriaceous, linear-lanceolate, 4-4.5 mm long, sunken in hollow of rachis. Lower glume absent. Upper glume coriaceous, flat, linear-lanceolate, 3.5-4 x 0.6-0.8 mm, 10-12-nerved apex acute to acuminate. Lower lemma membranous, boat shaped, 2.6-2.8 x 0.5-0.6 mm, 3-nerved, apex acuminate. Palea membranous, margins inflexed, 2.5-2.6 x 0.5-0.6 mm, 2-nerved, apex acute, stamens 3, anthers 1.3-1.5 x 0.1-0.2 mm, ovary obovate, 1.5-2 x 0.4-0.5 mm. Lodicules 2, cuneate,