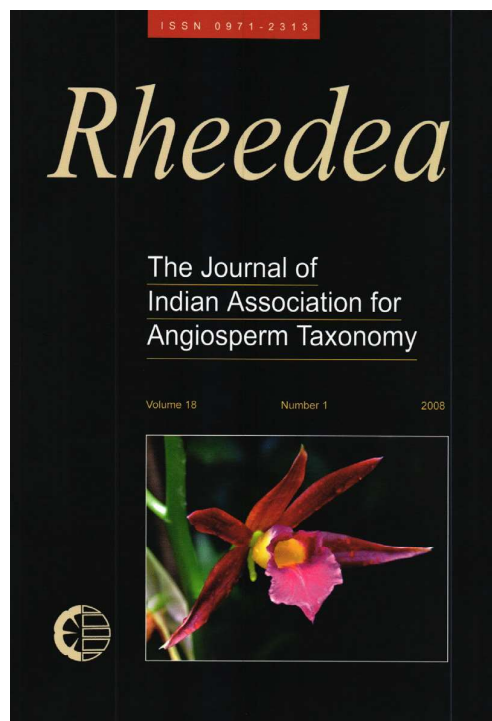


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How to cite:

**Veldkamp J.F., Potdar G.G. & S.R. Yadav 2008.** Notes on 3-flowered Paniceae (Poaceae) from India and the Cape Verde. *Rheedeia* 18(2): 91-93.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.22244/rheedeia.2008.18.02.05>

*Received:* 14.03.2006

*Revised and accepted:* 26.11.2008

*Published in print:* 31.03.2009

*Published Online:* 31.03.2009

# Notes on 3-flowered Paniceae (Poaceae) from India and the Cape Verde

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## Abstract

*Urochloa supervacua* (C.B. Clarke) Noltie, a member of the Poaceae - Panicoideae - Paniceae, possessing 3-flowered spikelet has been collected from Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra, which forms a new state record. Since only brief descriptions exist, a detailed one with illustrations is provided. In addition, a new combination in *Urochloa* P. Beauv. of the Cape Verde Islands is proposed.

Keywords: *Urochloa supervacua*, New Record, Maharashtra, India, New combination, *Urochloa caboverdiana*

## Introduction

During a botanical tour to the Konkan region in June 2004 specimens of an obviously panicoid grass were collected in the scrub forest on a lateritic plateau near the Khawane village in the Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra. The Paniceae in principle have 2-flowered spikelets. By reduction these have become 1-flowered in many species, but here the spikelets were uniformly 3-flowered. Very few panicoids have 3-flowered spikelets: *Brachiaria lata* (Schumach.) C.E. Hubb. subsp. *caboverdiana* Conert & C. Köhler from the Cape Verde Islands, *Lasiacis anomala* Hitchc., *Panicum quadriglume* (Döll) Hitchc. from S. America, and *Urochloa supervacua* (C.B. Clarke) Noltie from Bhutan, India and Nepal. The last one originally was described as *Panicum supervacuum* C.B. Clarke (1888). The Asian taxon is rarely mentioned in literature, not unlikely because it is not to be found in the account of Hooker f. (1896). Bor (1960) regarded it as an aberrant form of *Brachiaria ramosa* (L.) Stapf [= *Urochloa ramosa* (L.) T. Q. Nguyen]. Possibly because of these authorities it is not mentioned in the work of Basappa and Muniyamma (1983) either. The only other brief description of it is by Noltie (2000). The epithet means 'redundant', referring to the extra

lemma in the spikelet, and has apparently been used only once again, and also by Clarke for a *Hypolytrum* Rich. (Cyperaceae) from Brazil. Comparison showed that the plants from Khawane belonged to this and revealed that the species had a much wider distribution than was known. Because of the paucity of data a detailed description with illustrations was made. These observations also showed that *U. ramosa* and *U. supervacua* differ considerably as shown in the keys.

1a. Ligule of 1-1.5 mm long hairs. Blades 6-22 mm wide. Spikelets densely crowded on lowermost racemes. Spikelets 2-flowered. Spikelets 2.8-3 mm long. Glumes approximate; lower glume 1-1.3 mm long; upper glume 2.5-2.7 mm long, 7-nerved. First lemma 2.5-2.7 mm long, back slightly sulcate. Second lemma 2-2.5 mm long, apex mucronate, dull. Third lemma absent. Anthers 0.7-0.8 mm long.....  
..... **U. ramosa**

1b. Ligule of c. 0.5 mm long hairs. Blades 3.5-8 mm wide. Spikelets loosely scattered on lowermost racemes. Spikelets 3-flowered. Spikelets 3.2-4 mm long. Glumes remote; lower glume 1.6-1.9 mm long;