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JOURNAL ARTICLE

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A new species of *Themeda* Forssk. (Poaceae) from India

G. G. POTDAR¹, C. B. SALUNKHE² & S. R. YADAV³

Summary. A new species of *Themeda*, *T. pseudotremula* (Poaceae) is described and illustrated from Maharashtra, India.

The genus *Themeda* Forssk. includes about 26 species distributed in the tropics and subtropics of the Old World (Clayton & Renvoize 1989, Watson & Dallwitz 1994: 940 – 942). Most of the species occur in India (Bor 1960: 248 – 255, Karthikeyan *et al.* 1989: 268 – 269, Moulik 1997: 228 – 234); six are recorded for the State of Maharashtra (Sharma *et al.* 1996: 619 – 623). An extensive survey of the grasses of the state has resulted in the discovery of a new species which is described and illustrated here.

***Themeda pseudotremula* Potdar, Salunkhe & S. R. Yadav sp. nov.** *Themeda* tremulae (Nees ex Steud.) Hack. similis, sed spiculis sessilibus hermaphroditicis pilis longis strictis atro-ferrugineis munitis differt. Typus: India, Maharashtra, Tillari ghat (Kolhapur Distr.), Potdar 801 (holotypus CAL; isotypi BSI, Blatt, K).

Perennial. Culms terete, erect or geniculately ascending, 80 – 200 cm tall; nodes glabrous. Leaf sheath 5 – 10 cm long with bulbous-based or simple hairs on sheath margins; ligule 1.5 mm long, ciliate or a fringed membrane. Leaf blade linear, flat, 30 – 60 × 0.5 – 1.2 cm, glabrous above with a few scattered bulbous-based hairs at the base, glabrous or hirsute on the lower side. Inflorescence a false panicle or raceme up to 50 cm long, erect, peduncle of the pseudoraceme c. 5 cm long, glabrous. Spathe of raceme glabrous or with bulbous-based hairs on the margins. Racemes 0.5 – 1 cm long, the four involucrel sessile spikelets surrounding the bisexual spikelets. Involucrel spikelets arranged in 2 pairs at different levels, covered densely with bulbous-based hairs, 7 – 9 × 0.5 – 1.7 mm; lower glume membranous, lanceolate, 7 – 8.5 × 1.2 – 1.5 mm, 15 – 18-nerved, with bulbous-based hairs on the margins, margins inflexed, acute; upper glume membranous, lanceolate, 6.5 – 7.5 × 0.8 – 1 mm, 3-nerved, margins inflexed, ciliate on margins, acuminate; lemma hyaline, oblong, 4 – 5 × 0.5 – 0.7 mm, margins ciliate, inflexed, 1-nerved, obtuse; stamens 3, anthers 3 – 4 × 0.3 – 0.4 mm; lodicules cuneate. Sessile spikelets: usually 2, rarely 3, when 2, the lower bisexual spikelet with one pedicelled spikelet and the upper with two, when 3 then lower 2 bisexual spikelets with 1 pedicelled spikelet

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Abstract

A new species of *Themeda*, *T. pseudotremula* (Poaceae) is described and illustrated from Maharashtra, India.