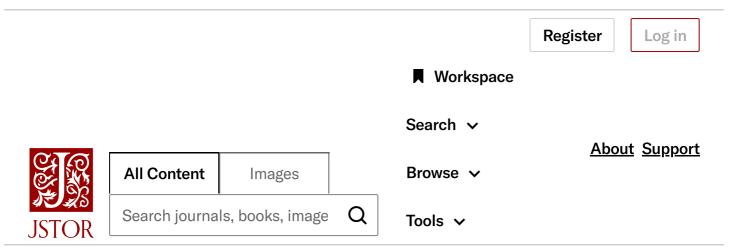
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KEW BULLETIN 58: 243 - 246 (2003)

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.** Themedae 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, $30 - 60 \times 0.5 - 1.2$ 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 involucral sessile spikelets surrounding the bisexual spikelets. Involucral spikelets arranged in 2 pairs at different levels, covered densely with bulbous-based hairs, $7 - 9 \times 0.5 - 1.7$ mm; lower glume membranous, lanceolate, $7 - 8.5 \times 1.2 - 1.5$ mm, 15 - 18-nerved, with bulbous-based hairs on the margins, margins inflexed, acute; upper glume membranous, lanceolate, $6.5 - 7.5 \times$ 0.8 - 1 mm, 3-nerved, margins inflexed, ciliate on margins, acuminate; lemma hyaline, oblong, $4 - 5 \times 0.5 - 0.7$ mm, margins ciliate, inflexed, 1-nerved, obtuse; stamens 3, anthers $3 - 4 \times 0.3 - 0.4$ 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

243

Abstract

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

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¹ Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur-416004, India.

² Krishna Mahavidyalaya, Shivnagar, Rethare Bk., Tal. Karad, Dist. Satara. - 415108, India.

³ Department of Botany, University of Delhi, Delhi - 110 007, India.