



Capillipedium yashwantraoi, a new species of Poaceae from Madhya Pradesh, India

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Abstract

New species in the genus *Capillipedium* Stapf is described and illustrated from Amarkantak hills of Madhya Pradesh, India. New species is similar to *Capillipedium assimile* (Steud.) A.Camus and *C. nagense* Bor but mainly diverges by having 4–6 cm panicle, 2–2.5 cm racemes, about 11–13 pairs of sessile and pedicelled spikelets in each raceme; joints and pedicels without translucent groove, 2–2.5 mm sessile spikelets and 3–3.2 mm pedicelled spikelets. A taxonomic key for genus *Capillipedium* in India is given to facilitate easy identification of species.

Keywords: Amarkantak, *Capillipedium yashwantraoi*, Madhya Pradesh, *sp. nov.*, Poaceae

Introduction

The genus *Capillipedium* Stapf commonly known as scented-tops grass belongs to subtribe Andropogoninae of tribe Andropogoneae (Poaceae) (Soreng *et al.* 2017). *Capillipedium* was first described by Otto Stapf (Daniel 1917). *Capillipedium* consisting about 18 species distributed in tropical Eastern Africa, tropical Asia to Australia and New Caledonia (Mabberley 2017). In India *Capillipedium* is represented by 08 species (Deshpande 1984).

During a floristic exploration at Amarkantak of Madhya Pradesh, authors collected an interesting species of *Capillipedium*. After detailed and critical morphological observations, consultation of relevant literature (Bor 1960, 1964, Clayton 1986, Deshpande 1984, Potdar *et al.* 2012, Shukla *et al.* 2009, Studel 1855) revealed that the species was closely related to *C. assimile* (Steud.) A.Camus and *C. nagense* Bor but differs in many distinguished characters provided in table 1. After consultation of protologue and type specimens of *C. assimile* (Studel 1855, *H. Zollinger* 859 [P00746710]) and *C. nagense* (Bor 1964, *N. L. Bor* 353 [K001057405]) authors reached at conclusion that the collected unknown interesting species is new to the science world, thus undescribed species of *Capillipedium* is described here.

Taxonomic treatment

Capillipedium yashwantraoi Tarbej & Potdar, *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1 & 2)

A species is very similar to *Capillipedium assimile* (Steud.) A.Camus and *Capillipedium nagense* Bor, but mainly differs in its 4–6 cm panicle (vs. 6–8 cm of *C. assimile*; 8–12 cm of *C. nagense*), 2–2.5 cm racemes with 11–13 pairs of sessile and pedicelled spikelets (vs. 0.5 cm with 3–4 pairs of sessile and pedicelled spikelets of *C. assimile*; 1–1.5 cm with 4–6 pairs of sessile and pedicelled spikelets of *C. nagense*), joints and pedicels without translucent groove (vs. joints and pedicels with translucent groove in *C. assimile* and *C. nagense*) and 2–2.5 mm sessile spikelets (vs. 2.5–3 mm of *C. assimile*; 3–4 mm of *C. nagense*) and 3–3.2 mm pedicelled spikelets (vs. 3.5–4 mm of *C. assimile*; 4–5 mm of *C. nagense*).