

NEW REPORT FROM CHANDRAAPUR DISTRICT, M.S., INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The present paper deals with the addition of *Scirpusgrossus*l.f. (Cyperaceae) to the flora of Chandrapur district. The species was reported for the first time in Multahsil of Chandrapur district during the floristic exploration. Updated nomenclature, family, locality, description and uses are given.

Key Words: *Scirpusgrossus*l.f., New report, Chandrapur Dist. Maharashtra.

INTRODUCTION:2013-2014

Chandrapur district is located in the eastern edge of Maharashtra in Nagpur division and forms the eastern part of 'Vidharbha' region. It is located between 19.30' N and 20.45' N latitude and 78.46'E longitude. It is the easternmost district of the state of Maharashtra. The district is bounded by Nagpur, Bhandara and Wardha on the northern side, Yavatmal on the western side, Gadchiroli on the eastern side and Adilabad district of the Andhra Pradesh on the southern side. Physiographically, the district is situated in the Wainganga and Wardha river basin. The eastern and western boundaries of the district are well defined by the rivers Wainganga and Wardha, the tributaries of Godavari. Chandrapur district occupies an area of 11,443 km² which constitutes 3.72 percent of the total area of the state.

Floristic study of Chandrapur district has been done earlier by various workers like Malhotra and Mitra (1973); Bhuskute (1990) and Tiwari and Padhye (1993). Present study has added one more plant species to the earlier records.

The plants were collected in October 2013 from Mhasali, a village near Nagbhid and nearby Mul in vegetative and blooming conditions. The plants were brought to the laboratory and processed for herbarium specimen. Plants were identified using relevant scientific literature (Hooker 1872 – 1877; Cooke 1967 (Rpr.); Sharma *et al.* 1996; Naik 1998; Singh and Karthikeyan, 2000, Singh *et al.* 2001).

Subsequent visits were planned to photograph the plants in proper blooming period. Identified specimens were deposited in the herbarium of Rashtrapita Mahatma Gandhi Arts & Science College, Nagbhid, Dist. Chandrapur(M.S.).

ENUMERATION :

*Scirpusgrossus*l.f. Palla in Allg. Bot. Zeit. 17: Beibl. 3. 1911; T. Koyama in dassan. & Fosb. Rev. Handb. Fl. Ceylon 5: 154, f. 6. 1985; Cooke, Fl. pres. Bombay 3: 408. 1958(Repr. ed); *S.grossus* var. *kysoor* (Roxb.) C. B. Cl. In Hook.F. op. cit. 660, 1985. 'Kachar'.

A large, perennial, glabrous herb. Rootstocks stout, sometimes stoloniferous, producing in dry season dark-coloured, hard, globose tubers, clothed and matted with fibres; Stem sharply trigonous, 1.2-3.0 cm high, triquetrous, edges scabrous, sides concave. Leaves few or several, 60-100 cm x 1.2x2.0 cm, flat, linear, acuminate. Spiklets 0.43-1.0 cm long, subglobose ovoid, dark brown, in large corumbiform decomposed terminal open contracted umbels, 7.5-20.2 cm in diameter. Nuts 0.1-0.2 cm long, obovoid, trigonous with a minute conical tip, ashy-grey or yellowish.

Tubers of *Scirpus grossus*Potted plants of *Scirpus grossus*

DISTRIBUTION:

It occurs in swampy, pools, ditches and marshes and is locally abundant especially in the ponds in Nagbhid and MulTahsil.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE:

S. grossus has some economic value. It produces tubers which are a good source of starch and boiled tubers are eaten. Tuber powder is used as health tonic by local peoples. *S. grossus* is harvested for mat-making, strings and roofs. This species may serve a good source of income if cultivated.

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