

# NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS OF SCIRPUS Linn., FOR BEED DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA

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## Abstract

The present paper deals with addition of *Scirpus* Linn., species reported for the first time for Beed district. The present study gives report of 8 taxa from the study regions. Frequent visits were made during October to January in the study region and specimens were collected and processed. The species collected has been identified and authenticated and the herbarium specimens have been deposited in the herbarium of Cyperaceae, Department of Botany, Sundarrao Solanke Mahavidyalaya, Majalgaon, Beed. Out of these species one species is new report to Soutada, Beed district and the detailed description of the present investigation along with illustrations is provided below.

**Key words:** *Scirpus*Linn, New records, Beed district, Maharashtra.

## INTRODUCTION

The floral characteristic features of the genus *Scirpus* Linn shows presence of spirally arranged glumes and style which is continuous with the ovary. These features, however are not diagnostic or exclusive of the genus but are shared by other genera as well. Spirally arranged glumes for instants are characteristic for genera such as *Bulbostylis*, *Fimbristylis*, *Eleocharis*, *Fuirena*, *Eriophorum* and *Lipocarpha*. It is therefore necessary to employ other features such as involucral bracts, position and nature of inflorescence on the culms, presence and absence of hypogynous structures, habit etc. in the circumscription of different species. Thus it can be said that there is no satisfactory set of characters that can be employed for characterization of any one species. It is an overall assessment of certain prominent features and field experience that help to distinguish different species of the genus. (W. Khan, 2000)

The genus is comparatively large, comprising more than 200 species distributed throughout the world and represented by over 25 species in India (Clarke, 1893). There are a total of 13 taxa have been included on the authority of W. Khan (1998) and 8 have been recorded from Beed district.

During botanical explorations of Marathwada region, 08 interesting specimens belonging to Cyperaceae were collected from wet situations of plains and margins of water courses. Close examination with the help of literature and herbarium specimens revealed that these one of the species is new record to Beed district of Marathwada region. All of these have been identified and authenticated by Dr. M. A. WadoodKhan. Detailed descriptions given below:

***Scirpus jacobii*** Fischer, Kew Bull. 1931:103.1931 et in Gamble Fl. Pres. Madras (1931) 3:1166 (repr. ed.) 1994; W. Khan in J. Rheedeia 10 (1): 26. 2000. *Schoenoplectusjacobii* (Fischer) Lye in Bot. Notis 124:290.1971. *Scirpusnegalensis* (Hochst ex Steud.) W. Khan in Naik Fl. Marathwada 2:971.1998.

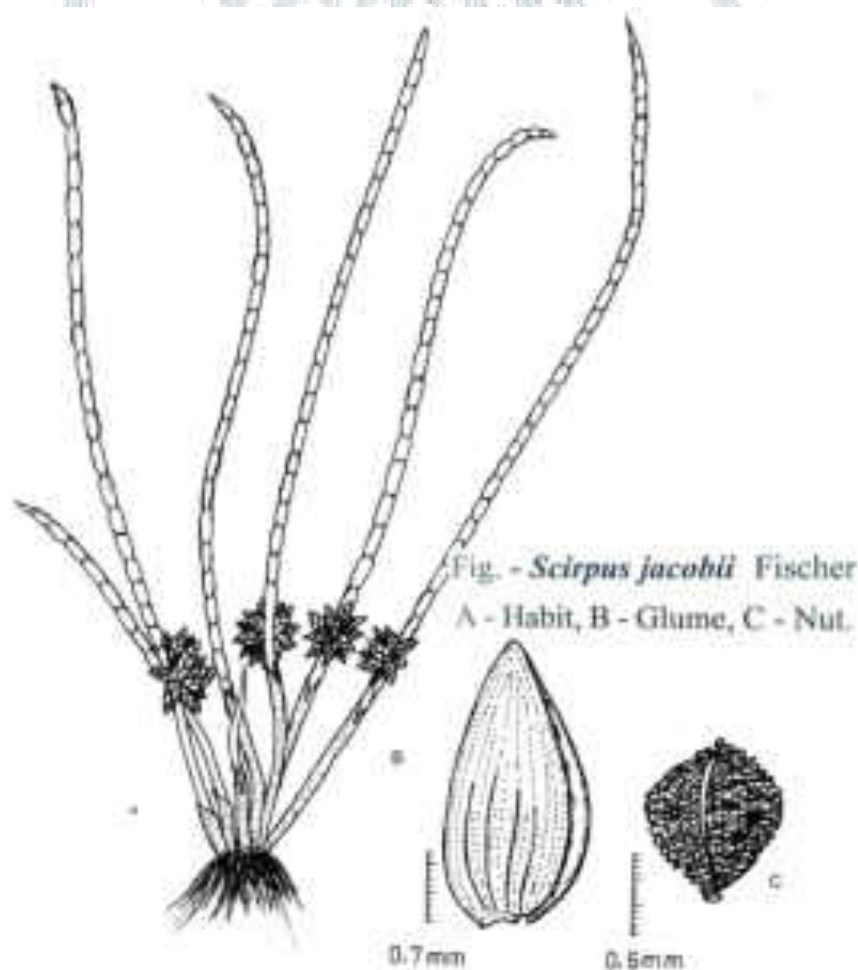
Densely tufted annuals, 10-35cm tall. Stems angular, terete, glabrous, soft, fleshy, septed, erect, many, 1-2 mm wide, ending brown tips. Leaves sheaths glabrous, membranous, basal, blade very short. Umbels simple, pseudo-lateral, sessile, 10-15 spikelets, near the base including sheaths or above sheaths. Involucral bract, stem - like, continuous of the stem. Spikelets sessile, ovoid or oblong - ovoid, 5 x 2.5-3 mm, whitish, rachilla wingless. Glumes ovate, sub-orbicular, spirally arranged, 2.5-3 mm across, white hyaline, apiculate apex. Stamens 2, anther elliptic, 0.6-0.8 mm long, cuticous, bristles absents. Styles 3- fid, linear, longer than the nuts. Nuts trigonous, ob-ovoid, 1-1.2 x 1 mm.

Occasional in moist lands, ditches and ponds.

**Fls. &Frts. :** - September to January.

**Specimens examined:** -MH, Beed district, Sautada, *Solanke S. N. 810, 955.*

**Notes :-**Although W. Khan reported this species Flora of Marathwada (Naik.1998) and has recorded this species from Mirzapur, Nanded District, however, this species recorded after twenty years from different locality which shows sparse and rare distribution. Significance of present study is report of this species from Sautada, Beed District of Maharashtra and rare in Maharashtra (W. Khan 2000). It is a distinct taxon on account of the features and the illustration of the same shown below.



## MATERIALS AND METHODS

While working on Sedges of Beed district of Maharashtra State, exploration undertook frequent collection tour sin every season to collect plants.The outcome of the collection tour was the 08 species of *Scirpus* Linn. All taxa have been identified with the help of available literature. The voucher specimens are deposited at the herbarium of Department of Botany, Sudarrao Solanke College, Majalgaon, Dist. Beed, Maharashtra. *Scirpus grossus* and *S.kysoor*, for instance lodged between *S.schoenopletus* and *S.actinoscirpus*, *S. maritimus* and *S.*

*affinis* between *Bulboschoenus* and *Schoenoplectus*, *S. squarrosus*, *S. kernii* between *Rikliella* and *Lipocarpha*. The position of these and other species under these genera appears to be doubtful. Most of these genera are also recognized on the basis of leaf anatomy and interpretation of floral reduction are not morphologically distinct from *Scirpus*.l. (W. Khan, 2000). The plants have been described with their Latin names, followed by authors citations. Detailed descriptions of the taxa, flowering and fruiting period and distributions, precise locations and exsiccate numbers are appended at the end.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

During the survey of pertinent literature (Clarke, 1893; Rao and Verma, 1982; Shah, 1978; Singh, 2001; Wadood Khan, 1998, 2008; Lakshminarsimhan, 1996; Cook, 1996; Yadav and Sardesai 2002; Prasad 2002). We found that, these species were not reported in any of the Beed District. This clearly reveals that, the species are rare to flora of Marathwada, even Maharashtra as a whole. Thus, the described species are new records to the Beed district of Maharashtra State.

On close examination of herbarium specimens and detailed scrutiny of literature published till today on these taxa, it can be claimed that this is new distributional records for Beed district from Maharashtra.

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