



## *Tripogon idukkianus* (Poaceae: Chloridoideae), a new species from India

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### Abstract

*Tripogon idukkianus*, a new species of grass from the Ramakkalmedu hill slopes of Idukki district of Kerala, South India is described and illustrated. The new species differs from *T. anantaswamianus* in having 5–13 mm long, acuminate glabrous leaves, 6–14 flowered spikelets with secund florets, 4-lobed scabrid lemmas with 3 awns each, and 2-keeled ciliate paleas with an obtuse or acute apex with two subapical setae.

**Key words:** Kerala, South India

### Introduction

The genus *Tripogon* Roemer & Schultes (1817: 34) belongs to subtribe Tripogoninae Stapf, the tribe Cynodonteae Dumort., subfamily Chloridoideae Kunth ex Beilschm. in the family Poaceae Barnhart (Peterson *et al.* 2010, 2014, Soreng *et al.* 2012), and comprises 44 species distributed in Africa, Australia, Temperate and Tropical Asia (Clayton *et al.* 2006). The genus is known to have 20 species in India, which includes four recently described species (Murugesan & Balasubramaniam 2008, Newmaster *et al.*, Kabeer *et al.* 2009, Chorghé *et al.* 2013). With the addition of the present species, the total number of species in India is 21.

While exploring the Western Ghats in 2002, the first author made an interesting collection from hilly slopes of Ramakkalmedu in Idukki District of Kerala and tentatively named it *T. anantaswamianus* Sreek., V.J. Nair & N.C. Nair (Sreekumar *et al.* 1983). After critical study and comparison with other species of *Tripogon*, the material appears quite distinct and is described here as a new species. Morphologically, it is similar to *Tripogon anantaswamianus* but can easily be distinguished based on acuminate glabrous leaves 5–13 mm long, 6–14-flowered spikelets with secund florets, 4-lobed scabrid lemmas each with 3 awns, and 2-keeled ciliate paleas with an obtuse or acute apex and two subapical setae (Table 1).

**TABLE 1.** Diagnostic characters to separate *T. idukkianus* and *T. anantaswamianus*.

<i>Tripogon idukkianus</i>	<i>Tripogon anantaswamianus</i>
Leaf blades 20–62 cm long, 2–3 mm wide, blades flat or involute, glabrous	Leaf blades 25–40 cm long, 1–2 mm wide, flat, glabrous or very sparsely hairy, adaxially glaucous
Leaf sheaths summit with a tuft of hairs 1–2 mm long. Ligules entire at apex	Leaf- sheaths smooth, bearded at mouth. Ligules fimbriate at apex.
Racemes 15–45 cm long	Racemes 15–20 cm long
Spikelets linear-lanceolate, 5–13 mm long, with 6–14 florets	Spikelets ovate-lanceolate, 8–15 mm long, with 7–10 florets
Lower glumes 2–3 mm long	Lower glumes 4–5 mm long
Upper glumes 4–5 mm long	Upper glumes 7–8 mm long,
Lemmas 5–6 mm long (including awns), lateral awns 1.5–2 mm long, apex 4-lobed	Lemmas 7–8 mm long (including awns), lateral awns 3–4 mm long, apex 6-lobed at apex
Paleas 2.5–3 mm long, obovate, subapical setae present, the setae 0.25 mm long, curved	Paleas 3–4 mm long, elliptic, subapical setae absent

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