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## *Eragrostis pilosa* (L.) P. Beauv (Poaceae): An addition to the grass flora of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India

Reshma Lakra<sup>1</sup> and Pushpa Kumari<sup>2\*</sup><sup>1</sup> Botanical Survey of India, Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Haddo, Port Blair-744 102, India<sup>2</sup> Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, P.O: Botanic Garden, Howrah-711 103, India

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### ABSTRACT

*Eragrostis pilosa* (L.) P. Beauv (*Poaceae*) collected as new addition to the grass flora of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Eight species of *Eragrostis* have been enlisted in earlier reports from this region. The paper embodies vivid description, photographic plate, illustration along with distribution and taxonomic status.

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During a botanical exploration to South Andaman, numerous species of Poaceae were collected and documented. After critical dissection, herbarium consultation and thorough study of relevant literature (Pandey & Diwakar, 2008; Bor, 1960, Kabeer & Nair, 2009) it was found that *E. pilosa* was neither previously reported nor collected from this region. Thus, the current collection forms the first record of the species for the grass flora of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Members of *Eragrostis* Wolf. occur mainly in the tropical and temperate regions worldwide. The genus is represented by 423 species (Giraldo-Canas et al., 2012, among which 44 species are found in India (Kabeer & Nair, 2009, Vivek, 2014) and 8 species in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

***Eragrostis pilosa* (L.) P. Beauv**, Esc. Agrostogr. 71, 162, 175. 1812; Stapf in Hook.f. Fl. Brit. India 7: 323. 1896; Rang & Tadul, Handb. S. India Grasses 225. 1921; Gamble Fl. Madras 3: 1827. 1934; Bor, Grass. Burma Ceylon India Pakistan 512. 1960; Sharma *et al.*, in Biol. Mem. 2 (1 & 2): 164. 1977; Britto & Matthew, Fl. Tamil Nadu Carnatic

3(2): 1856. 1983; Matthew, Fur. III. Fl. Tamil Nadu Carnatic 4: 778. 1988; Mayur., Flow. Pl. Madras City. 296. 1994 (rev.ed.); Moulik, Grass. Bamb. India 2: 606. t. 134. 1997; Daniel & Umamahesh, Fl. Gulf Mannar 550. 2001; Pallith; Pock. Fl. Sirumalai Hills 286. 2001. *Poa pilosa* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 68. 1753.

Annual. Culm 10 – 65 cm; erect to geniculate; node glabrous, blackish purple; internode 2 – 20 cm, cylindrical, glabrous, olive green. Leaf blade 1 – 18 cm × 0.2 – 0.3 mm, lanceolate, apex acute, veins at lower surface serrulate; ligule 0.1 – 0.2 mm, membranous, apex fimbriate; leaf sheath 2 – 5 cm × 2 – 3 mm, mouth bearded with glandular hairs. Panicle 3 – 30 × 0.3 – 7 cm. Spikelets 0.2 – 1.5 cm × c. 0.4 cm, pedicelled; florets 3 – 29; lanceolate, apex acute; rachis 1 – 5 cm, angular, denticulate; rachilla 2 – 12 cm; pedicel 1 – 8 cm, denticulate. Lower glume 0.3 – 1 mm × 0.1 – 0.5 mm, membranous, glabrous, margin entire, mid-nerve prominent, slightly raised, dentate. Upper glume 0.4 – 1.4 × 0.2 – 0.6 mm, linear to lanceolate, apex acute, membranous, margin entire, mid-nerve prominent, denticulate. Lemma 0.8 – 2 × 0.4 – 1.2 mm, ovate to

\* Corresponding author; E-mail: pushparbg@gmail.com

lanceolate, apex acute to attenuate, margin entire, 3 nerved, mid-nerve prominent, denticulate. Palea  $0.4 - 1.8 \times 0.1 - 0.3$  mm, elliptic, apex acute, membranous, hyaline, margin entire, infolded, 2 nerved, 2 keeled, keels denticulate. Lodicules 2,  $0.1 - 0.2$  mm, membranous. Stamens 3,  $0.4 - 0.6$  mm long, brownish white. Ovary  $0.1 - 0.2$  mm  $\times$  c.  $0.1$  mm, yellowish; stigma  $0.3 - 0.5$  mm, plumose, white. Caryopsis c.  $0.8 \times 0.4 - 0.5$  mm, elliptic to oblong, brownish. (Fig.1).

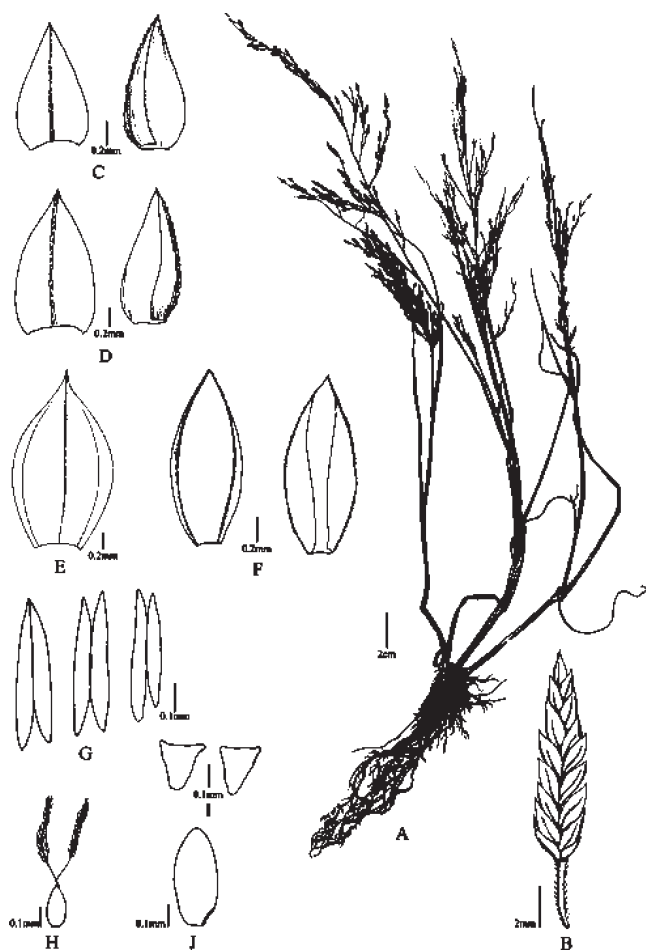


Fig.1 *Eragrostis pilosa* (L.) P. Beauv. : A. habit; B. Spikelet; C. lower glume; D. upper glume; E. lemma; F. palea; G. anthers; H. pistil; I. lodicules; J. caryopsis.

Flowering & Fruiting: May – March

*Habitat & Ecology:* The species was observed growing on road sides, in open grasslands near Sippighat, Port Blair, South Andaman. The associated species were *Eragrostis uniloides*, *Echinochloa colonum* and other seasonal grasses.

*Distribution:* INDIA: Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh (Kabeer & Nair, 2009) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (present study).

*Species examined:* INDIA: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Port Blair, Sippighat, South Andaman, 16.07.2015, Longitude  $92^{\circ}73'33''$  Latitude  $11^{\circ}66'67''$ , Reshma Lakra 32298 (PBL, CNH).

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