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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN GRAMINEAE. VI*

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SUMMARY

In *Oryza* a new combination for an Indian wild rice and a new specific record for *Oryza minuta* Presl for Australia are given. A new combination in *Polytrias* is proposed, due to which *Ischaemum ciliare* Retz. must be reinstated for *I. indicum* auct., non (Houtt.) Merr.

ORYZA

Oryza meyeriana (Zoll. & Mor.) Baill. var. **indandamanica** (J.L. Ellis) Veldk., *comb. nov.*

Oryza indandamanica J.L. Ellis, Bull. Bot. Surv. India 27 ('1985', 1987) 29, fig. 1–7. — Type: *PBL 12248 (Ellis)* (CAL, holo; K, L, PBL), Andaman Islands, Rutland Is., 30 m alt., 26 July 1986.

Note – Very similar to *Oryza meyeriana* (Zoll. & Mor.) Baill. var. *granulata* (Watt) Duistermaat, and appearing a dwarfed form of it by the narrower blades (0.5–0.7 cm vs. 0.7–2 cm) and the smaller panicles (3–5 cm vs. 4–15 cm), but mainly distinct by the ± smooth, hardly granulate spikelets. This seems insufficient to maintain it as a distinct species.

Oryza minuta Presl

This species was collected for the first time in Australia, in Queensland on Moa Island (*Budworth 1251*, NSW) in May 1987. It is a rather aberrant specimen with awns only c. 0.8 mm long, it might thus easily be confused with *O. meyeriana* (Zoll. & Mor.) Baill. var. *meyeriana*. However, the pubescence of the fertile lemma is that of *O. minuta*. The first is not known East of the Moluccas (Halmaheira), while *O. minuta* is known from 'across the water' in the Merauke and Western Provinces of New Guinea.

*) continued from Blumea 19 (1971) 61.

ISCHAEMUM CILIARE, PHLEUM INDICUM, AND POLYTRIAS

Houttuyn (1782) described *Phleum indicum* from Java, which name has long remained in obscurity until Merrill (1938) used it as the basionym for *Ischaemum indicum* (Houtt.) Merr., basing himself on Houttuyn's brief Latin and Dutch diagnoses and the rather coarse figure, but not on the actual type specimen.

Ischaemum indicum sensu Merrill is a widely distributed species in Southeast Asia and the Pacific and has been introduced elsewhere. It was previously known as *I. ciliare* Retz. or *I. aristatum* auct., non L. This is a very variable species meriting a thorough investigation by the methods of modern experimental taxonomy (Bor, 1960). Hackel (1889) distinguished 3 varieties and 4 subvarieties under *I. ciliare*, while Bor had 6 varieties under *I. indicum*.

Recently I was sent at least part of the Gramineae of the Houttuyn Herbarium deposited in G, among which I encountered the holotype of *Phleum indicum*. The specimen is a good match for the plate given by Houttuyn which is clearly based on it: the figure is in reverse from the specimen as it is mounted on the sheet which is annotated by Houttuyn as '*Phleum indicum* Nb.'

To my surprise this was not an *Ischaemum* at all, but what is generally known as *Polytrias amaura* (Buse) Kuntze, a superfluous name for *P. diversiflora* (Steudel) Nash (see also Simon, 1989), a common lawngrass in the tropics, originating from Southeast Asia, possibly from Java ('Javagrass').

A new combination in *Polytrias* is therefore necessary and the combination *Ischaemum ciliare* Retz. must be reinstated for *I. indicum* auct., non (Houtt.) Merr.

Polytrias indica (Houtt.) Veldk., *comb. nov.*

Phleum indicum Houtt., Nat. Hist. II, 13 (1782) 198, t. 90, f. 2. — Type: *Hb. Houttuyn s.n.* (G, holo).

Andropogon diversiflorus Steudel [in Zoll., Syst. Verz. 1 (June 1854) 58, nomen], Syn. 1 (July 1854) 370. — *Andropogon amaurus* Buse in Miq., Pl. Jungh. (Aug. 1854) 360, nom. superfl. — *Polytrias amaura* Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 2 (1891) 788, nom. superfl. — *Polytrias diversiflora* Nash, Torreya 5 (1905) 110. — *Eulalia amaura* Ohwi, Bull. Tokyo Sc. Mus. 18 (1947) 2, nom. superfl. — Type: *Zollinger 539* (P, holo, L).

Pollinia praemorsa Nees [in Hook., J. Bot. 2 (1850) 98, nomen] ex Steudel, Syn. 1 (Nov. 1854) 409. — *Polytrias praemorsa* Hackel in E. & P., Nat. Pflanzenfam. II, 2 (1887) 24 (without basionym!); Mon. Androp. (1889) 189, t. 1, f. 13 (basionym: nom. superfl.!). — *Eulalia praemorsa* Stapf ex Ridley, Fl. Mal. Pen. 5 (1925) 197. — Type: 'Java' (holotype could be in P, but was not found).

Andropogon firmandus Steudel, Syn. 1 (July 1854) 370. — Type: *Zollinger 2014 ('2814')* (P, holo).

Polytrias amaura (Buse) Kuntze subvar. *pallida* Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 2 (1891) 789, nom. incorr. — Type: *Kuntze s.n.* (NY, holo).

Distribution – Malesia: originally apparently from Java; most old collections originate from there, while those from elsewhere usually date from this century. However, although Hooker f. (1896) said that it would not (yet) occur in India, he himself and T. Thomson collected it in Khasia around 1850 (as *Pogonatherum crinitum*). Now pan-tropically introduced and escaping.

Habitat – Especially in areas with a moderate to strong East monsoon, dry, sunny areas on various soils, halophobe (Backer, 1928) but Bor (1962) stated 'particularly in places close to the sea', along roads, dikes, lawns, open areas in teak forest, in Timor dominant in *Corypha* savannas; locally abundant (so that the spikes give a brown red hue to the field: Backer), up to 1600 m altitude.

Ecology – Remo-Castro & Tabbada (1977) have shown this to be a short-day plant; they also suggested that the pollen may cause hay-fever. Visited by bees collecting nectar (Monod de Froideville, oral comm.). Spikelets protogynous.

Uses – Good lawngrass, drought-resistant, in moister areas outcompeted by *Axonopus*. By some said to be useful as a fodder, by others to be of insufficient yield and of only average nutritive value.

Vernacular name – Java grass (E).

Note – Very close to *Eulalia* Kunth, mainly differing by its solitary racemes and ternate spikelets. Aberrant specimens with branched inflorescences (branches alternate) occur, and the lowermost spikelets are often paired.

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