

**AXONOPUS COMPRESSUS (SW.) P. BEAUV. (POACEAE) NEW RECORD FOR SATPURA REGION, MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Axonopus compressus* (Sw.) P. Beauv. (Poaceae) was collected and reported for the first time from Satpura Region, (M.P.) India. The present work embodies a detailed description and illustration facilitate identification and confirmation of the species in this region.

Figure : 01

References : 08

Table : 00

KEY WORDS : *Axonopus compressus*, Madhya Pradesh, New species, Satpura region.

**Introduction**

Grass family was recognized as early as in 1763 by the name Gramineae which was later on named as Poaceae. Family Poaceae is represented by about 10,300 species belonging to 898 genera, made significant contributions to the taxonomy of the family and recognized about 700 genera and 10,000 species in the world. Gramineae with about 10,300 species, is one of the largest families of flowering plants lending vegetation cover to about 17% of the Earth's land surface. Besides vegetation cover, grasses provide a number of cereals and fodder plants to mankind and animals. Grasses form a dominant vegetation in Indian subcontinent. Nearly 15 % of the world grasses are represented in India ranging from most noxious weeds to those which are critically endangered.

Several workers have contributed to grass floristic in different parts of India<sup>2,3</sup>. Grasses of Jheels and Sylhet districts were worked out<sup>4</sup>.

Several workers have contributed to grass flora of Madhya Pradesh<sup>5,6,8</sup>. Grasses of Madhya Pradesh and Contribution to the Botany of Madhya Pradesh<sup>7</sup> and reported 103 genera and 264 species in "Flora of Madhya Pradesh" Vol. III

**STUDY AREA:** The Satpura range is a range of hills in central India. The range rises in eastern Gujarat state near the Arabian Sea coast, running east through Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to Chhattisgarh. The Narmada river runs in the depression between the Satpura and draining the northern slope of the Satpura range and running west towards the Arabian Sea. The Tapi river drains the Southern slopes of the western end of the Satpura range. The Godavari River and its tributaries drain the Deccan plateau, which lies south of the central and eastern portion of the range and the Mahanadi river drain the easternmost portion of the range. The Godavari and Mahanadi river flow into Bay of Bengal, at eastern end, the Satpura range meets the hills of the Chhota Nagpur Plateau.

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### Taxonomy:

***Axonopus compressus*** ( Sw.) P. Beauv<sup>3</sup>., Ess. Agrost. 12 (154) : 167. 1812; Fl. Maharashtra St. Monocot. 633. 1966; *Milium compressum* Sw. Prodr. Veg. Ind. Oc. 24. 1788.

A perennial grass. Clums ascending from a geniculate base, tufted, slender, glabrous, smooth, seated on a slender rhizome; stolons creeping and rooting. Leaf-blades linear-lanceolate, obtuse or shortly acute, 5-12 cm. long, bright green, leaf sheaths compressed and keeled. crowded and flabellate, glabrous or sparingly hairy, striate and smooth. Inflorescence of 2-3-5 spikes very slender 5-7-5 cm. long; rachis straight or flexuous if long, about 75 mm. wide, triquetrous,

angled and narrowly winged, angles scaberulous or almost smooth; pedicels alternately to left and right of the frontal angle. Spikelets oblong to lanceolate-oblong, sub-acute to acute, 2-2 -5 mm. Lower glume absent; the upper the shape of the spikelet with narrowly incurved margins, upper floret hermaphrodite, much shorter than the spikelet, elliptic-oblong, obtuse, white; lemma and palea thinly crustaceous, the former very faintly 4-nerved, finely and shortly hairy at the top. Grain elliptic in outline, obtuse, white.

**Distribution:** Rare in Chhindwara<sup>1</sup>;

**Fl. & Fr.:** Aug. – Nov.;

**Examined:** Omkar Bawistale, Patalkot, Chhindwara District; **Herbarium No.:** 9425

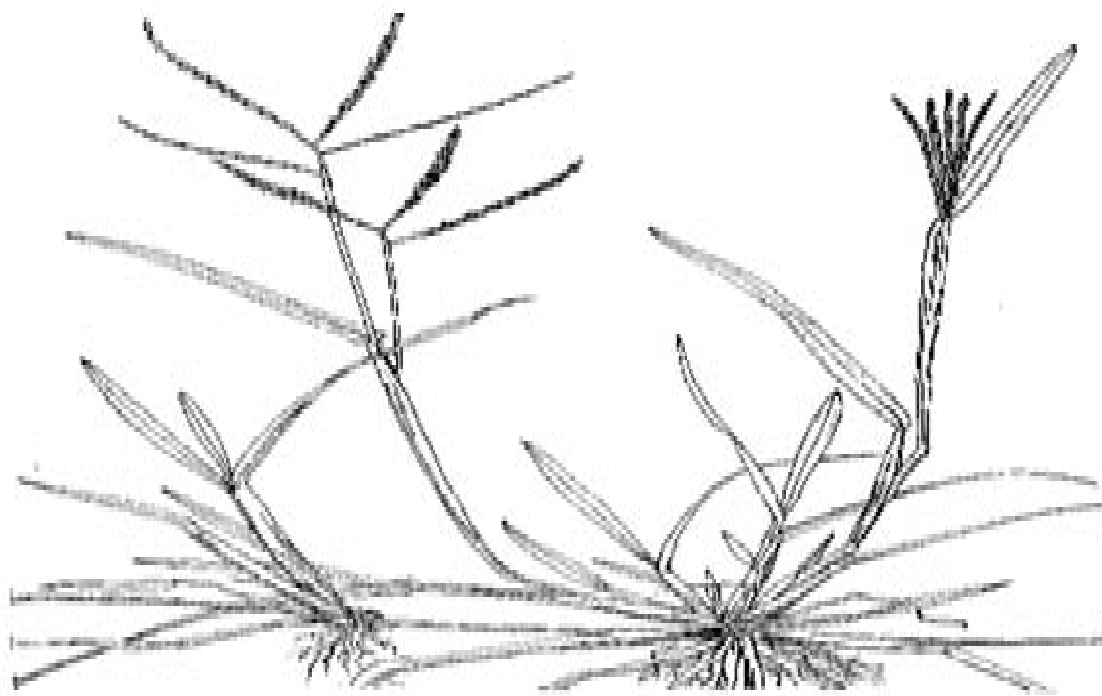


Fig.1 : Species *Axonopus compressus* (Sw.) P. Beauv. (Poaceae)

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