



## *BULBOSTYLIS CAPILLARIS* (CYPERACEAE): A NEW RECORD FOR THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT


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**ABSTRACT:** *Bulbostylis capillaris* (Cyperaceae), a New World sedge species is recorded for the first time from the Indian sub-continent. A brief taxonomic description with notes and colour photographs are provided.

**Key words:** *Bulbostylis*, Kerala, new record, Western Ghats

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### INTRODUCTION

*Bulbostylis* is a genus comprising terrestrial caespitose herbs, which presents a richness of around 150 species with pantropical distribution, inhabiting in non-forest areas having well-drained soil [1]. The genus differs morphologically from other genera of the tribe *Abildgaardieae* by the surface orientation of nutlets, structure of leaf sheath apex and presence of persistent stylar base. In India, the genus is represented by 5 species [2].

While studying the family Cyperaceae in Kerala State, India, the authors collected an interesting species of *Bulbostylis*, from Wayanad district. On critical examination and scrutiny of literature it was identified as *Bulbostylis capillaris* (L.) C. B. Clarke. *Scirpus capillaris* L was first described by Linnaeus [3] based on specimens from America (Virginia), Ethiopia and Sri Lanka. Clarke [4] transferred it in to *Bulbostylis* and made the combination *Bulbostylis capillaris* (L.) C. B. Clarke. Hooker [5] reported that the type from Virginia was different from the Sri Lankan material. Later, Fernald [6] designated *Clayton 771* as the lectotype stating that “the material from Ethiopia is certainly not a *Bulbostylis*” and the material from Sri Lanka is *B. barbata* (Rottb.) C. B. Clarke. Lopez and Simpson [7] established *B. capillaris* as a New World Taxon. The present collection from Kerala forms a new distribution record for the Indian subcontinent.

### Taxonomic Treatment

*Bulbostylis capillaris* (L.) Kunth ex C. B. Clarke Fl. Brit. India 6: 652. 1893.

= *Scirpus capillaris* L. Sp. Pl. 1: 49, 1753

Type:—USA, Virginia, *Clayton 777* (lectotype (LINN!) designated by Fernald 1938)

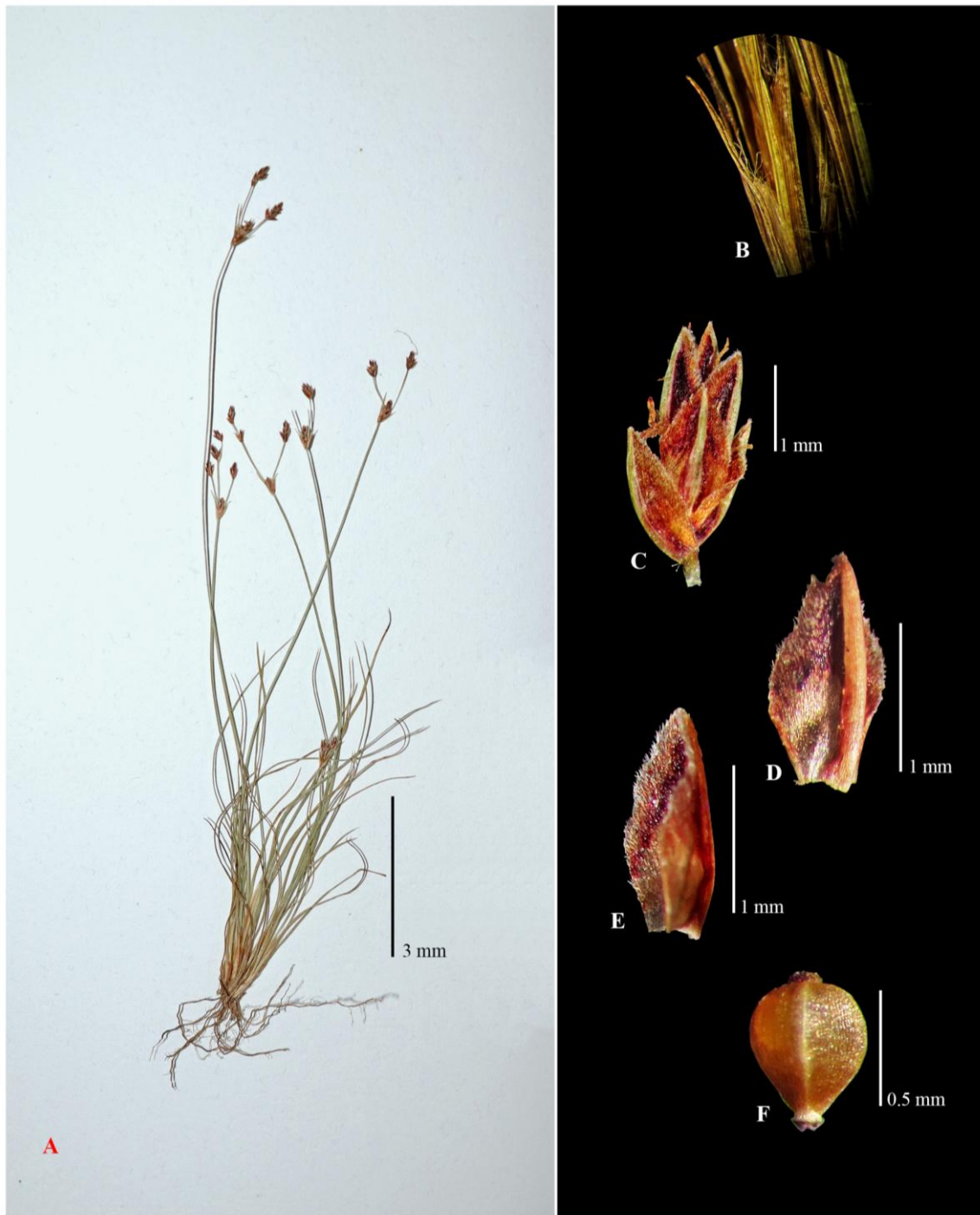
Annual herbs, 10–25 cm tall. Roots fibrous. Culms 0.25–0.3 mm wide, subtrigonal, longitudinally 7-ribbed. Leaves 4–12 cm long, basal leaves reduced to sheaths; sheaths 1–2 cm long, membranous, stramineous, ferruginous, longitudinally lineate, apex ciliate; blades 3–10 cm long, capillary, flat to slightly concave, lower surface 3-nerved, margins and nerves scabrid. Inflorescence a simple, lax or dense anthelodium with 3–5 spikelets; involucre bracts leaf like, shorter than inflorescence. Spikelets ovoid, 3–7 × 1.75–2 mm; rachilla contracted, winged, persistent; glumes ovate, 1.7–2 × 1.5–1.8 mm, apex shortly emarginated, reddish with brown patches, midrib stramineous, sides membranous, hispid, margins ciliate. Stamens 2; anthers 0.3 mm long, connective tip rounded to slightly acute; filaments band shaped. Ovary obovoid; style base thickened, persistent, 0.5–0.7 mm long; stigma 3, 0.2–0.3 mm long. Nutlets obovoid, 0.5–0.75 × 0.5–0.7 mm, trigonal; surface transversely rugose, reddish cells longitudinally elongated; style base persistent.

**Phenology:**—Flowering and fruiting occur from August to March.

**Habitat:**—It is naturally growing in the moist rocky areas of Wayanad District, Kerala.

**Distribution:**—Southern Canada to Brazil. India: Kerala.

**Specimen examined:**—India, Kerala, Wayanad, 17 May 2017, A. R. Viji 5188 (UCT, TBGT).



**Figure 1.** *Bulbostylis capillaris* (L.) Kunth ex C. B. Clarke **A.** Habit; **B.** Bristles; **C.** Spikelet; **D–E.** Glume; **F.** Nut.

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