

A NEW SPECIES OF *KOBRESIA* WILLD. (CYPERACEAE) FROM WESTERN HIMALAYA

Bikash Jana

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ABSTRACT

Kobresia rcsrivastavae Bikash Jana sp.nova (Cyperaceae) described and illustrated in this paper.

Key Words: Cyperaceae, Kobresia, Species, Taxonomy

INTRODUCTION

During the course of studies on ‘Genus *Kobresia* Willd. (Cyperaceae) in India’ under Flora of India project of Botanical Survey of India, the author came across an unidentified specimen in BSD herbarium. Critical studies and scrutiny of the literature (Chowdhury, 2009; Clarke, 1894; Govaerts and Simpson, 2007; Karthikeyan, 1989; Koyama, 1978; Küenthal, 1909; Noltie, 1994; Noltie and Zhang, 2010; Srivastava, 1996) revealed that this is a new species of *Kobresia*. The same is described and illustrated as under.

***Kobresia rcsrivastavae* Bikash Jana sp. nova, Type:** India, Uttarakhand, Nandadevi National Park, Sarsaupathar, 5.7.1982, P.K.Hajra 73962 (HoloType-BSD!)

Allied to *K. woodii* but differs in having bisexual inflorescence, branched spike and oblong prophylls, also allied to the *K. cerostachys* but differs in having straw coloured upper leaf sheaths, leaves exceeding the culm, more or less flat leaves and yellowish prophylls.

Densely tufted, perennial. Leaves 5- 14.6 x 0.1-0.15 cm, scarcely keeled, slightly exceeding the culm. Leaf sheaths yellowish white straw coloured, not fibrillose. Culm ca 14 x 0.1 cm, terete, yellowish white in colour. Inflorescence linear, ca 5 x 0.5cm, bisexual, chocolate brown in colour . Spike branched, unisexual, female spike at lower, male at upper. Female spikelet oblong, ca 2.5 x 1mm, brown in colour. Female glume oblong-ovate, ca 2.5 x 1.5 mm, margin hyaline, brown in colour; midrib single, green colour. Prophyll linear- oblong, ca 3 x 1mm, scabrid, open from apex, yellowish in colour. Gynoecium ca 2.5 x 0.5 mm; Ovary minute; Stigma 3. Male spikelet ca 3.5 x 1 mm, oblong, reddish brown in colour, apex hyaline. Stamens 3, ca 1.5mm.

Fl. & Fr.: July

Habitat: Hill slopes in Western Himalaya

Distribution: India (Uttarakhand)

Etymology: This species named in honour of Dr. R.C.Srivastava in view of his vast contributions on Flora of Eastern Himalayan region of India.

Holotype: India, Uttarakhand, Nandadevi National Park, Sarsaupathar, 5.7.1982, P.K. Hajra 73962 (BSD!)

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Research Article**REFERENCES**

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Table 1: Distinguishing characters of *K rcsrivastavae* sp. nova, *K.woodii* and *K. cerostachys*

Characters	<i>K. rcsrivastavae</i> Bikash Jana sp. nova	<i>K. woodii</i> Noltie	<i>K. cerostachys</i> (Frnch.) C.B.Clarke
Basal sheath	Basal sheath light yellowish brown in colour.	Upper part of leaf sheaths straw coloured, lower part chocolate brown.	Basal sheaths prominent and persistent, brown or pale brown, densely fibrillose.
Leaves	Leaves exceeding the culm, linear sometimes slightly flat.	Leaves exceeding the culm, semi circular to V-shaped in section.	Leaves basal, shorter than or sometimes equaling the culm, blade filiform or involute.
Inflorescence	Inflorescence bisexual, linear to oblong, dark brown in colour.	Inflorescence unisexual, male and female borne in same plant, oblong, deep brown in colour.	Inflorescence bisexual, androgynous.
Spike	Spike branched, lower 3-4 female and upper single male.	Spike simple unbranched. Female and male spikelet borne on different spike.	Spike unbranched, linear, chocolate brown in colour.Upper spikelet male and lower female.
Female glume	Oblong-ovate, margin hyaline, brown. Midrib light green.	Oblong ovate, margin narrowly hyaline midrib wide, pale green.	Female glume oblong ovate, brown in colour, margin hyaline, midrib green.
Prophyll	Prophyll oblong, densely scabrid, yellowish in colour.	Prophylls linear oblong, keels minutely scabrid.	Lower part pale green apex brown in colour.

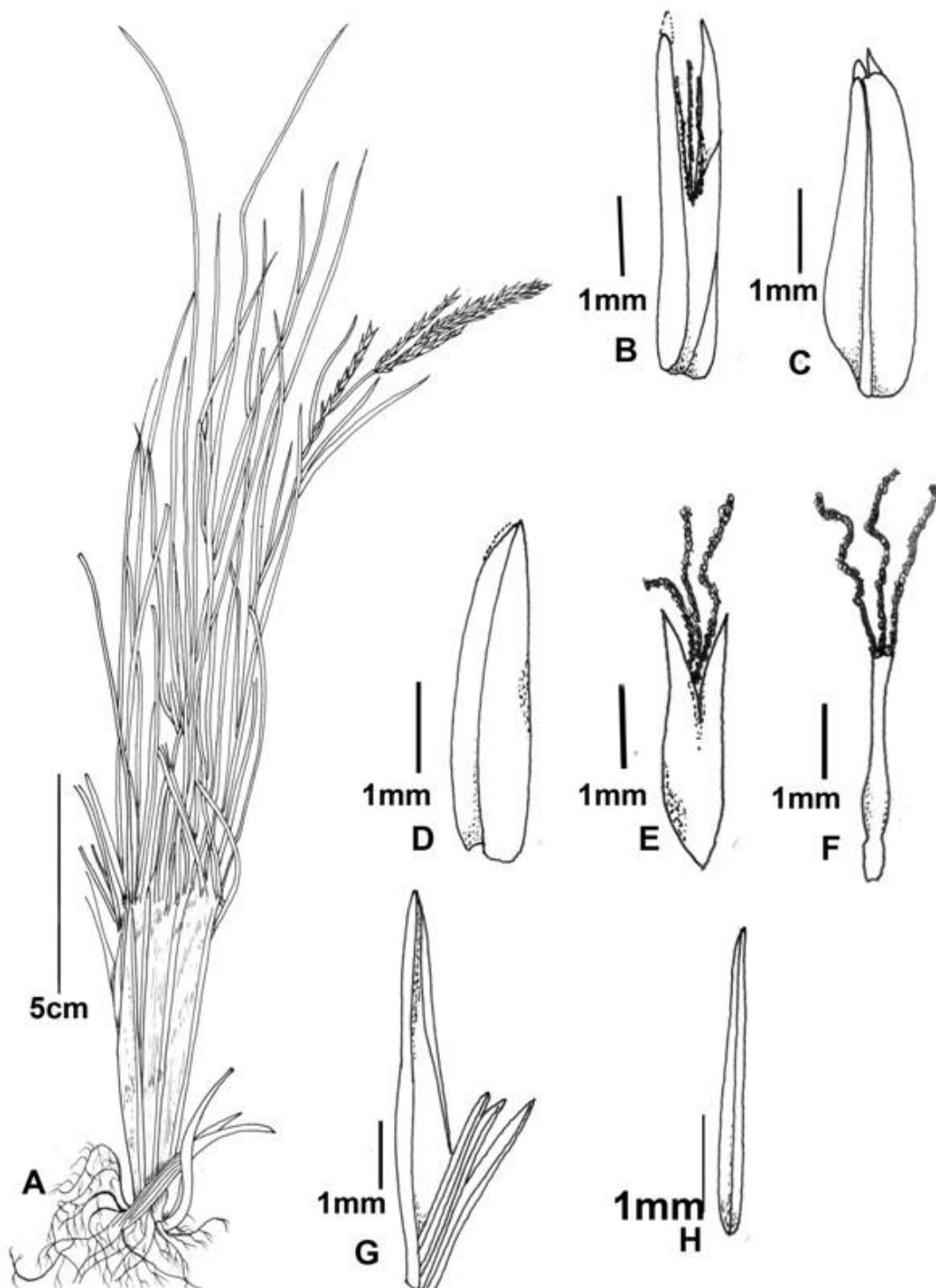


Plate-I:Figs. A-H: *Kobresia rcsrivastavae* Bikash Jana sp.nova A: Habit; B:Female spikelet
C: Female glume; D: side view of female glume ; E: Prophyll; F: Gynoecium; G: Male
spikelet; H: Stamen

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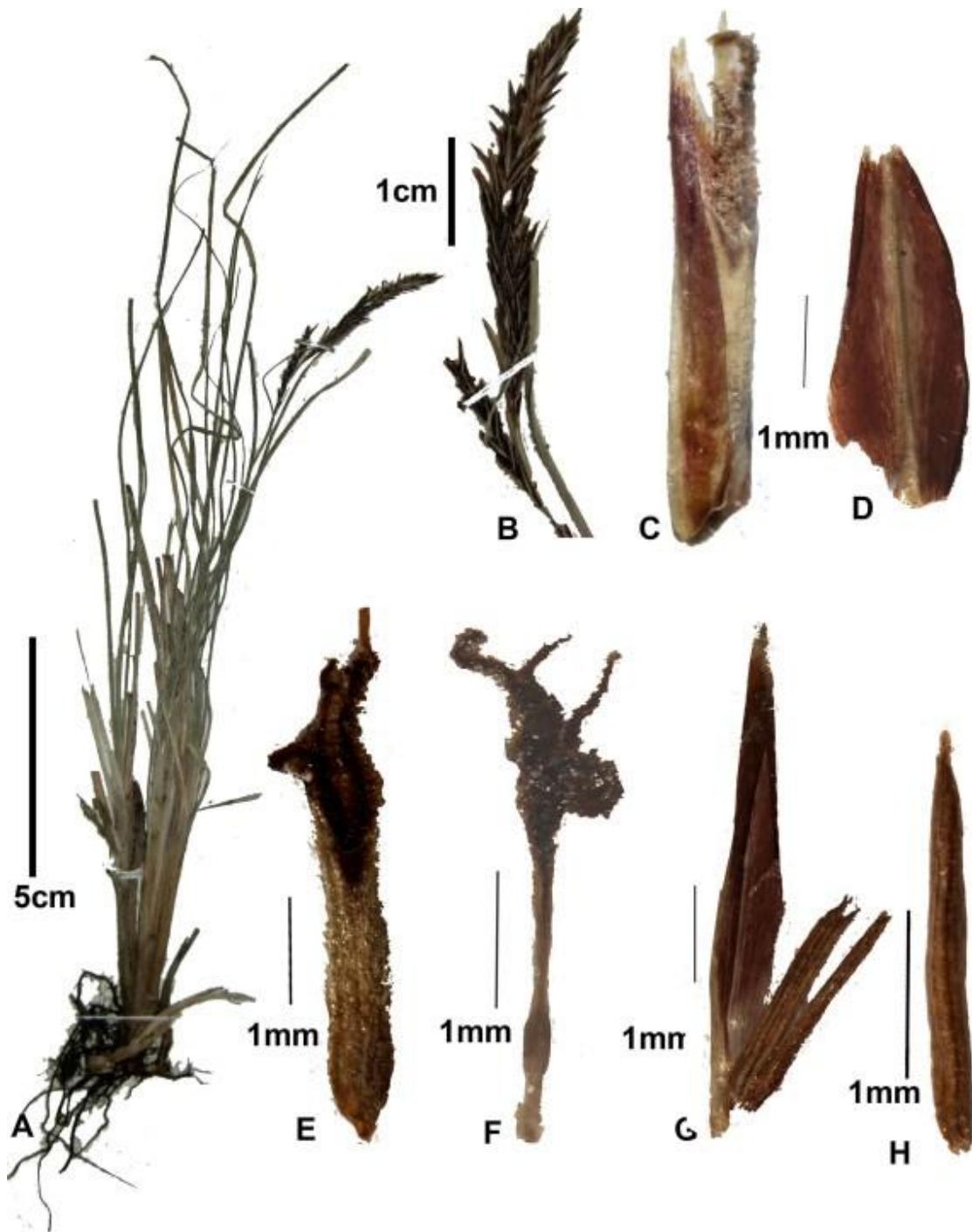


Plate-II: Figs. A-H: *Kobresia rcsrivastavae* Bikash Jana A: Habit ; B: Closeup of Inflorescence; C: female spikelet; D: Female glume; E: Prophylly with gynoecium; F: Gynoecium; G: male spikelet; H: Stamen

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Plate-III : Holotype of the *K. rcsrivastavae* Bikash Jana