

***SCLERIA BORII*, A NEW SPECIES OF CYPERACEAE FROM MANIPUR**

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ABSTRACT

A new species of *Scleria borii* (Cyperaceae) has been described in this paper.

During revision of the Indian species of *Scleria* Berg., a specimen from Manipur, *Bor* 17808, kept in the Herbarium of the Forest Research Institute & College, Dehra Dun (DD) under *Scleria hebecarpa* Nees (= *S. levis* Retz.) was found to have markedly different nuts. While the nuts of *S. levis* Retz., of which several specimens were examined, are globose-ovoid, 2.5-3.0 mm long and about 2.5 mm broad, usually longer than broad, sometimes as broad as long, the nuts of *Bor* 17808 were distinctly shorter and oblate, about 2.0 mm long and about 2.3 mm broad, always broader than long. The oblate nuts are somewhat similar in shape to those found in *Scleria oblata* S.T. Blake which again is very distinct with its thick hemispherical obtuse disk lobes. The disk lobes of *Bor* 17808 are thin, lanceolate, and toothed. Hence, it is being described below as a new species.

Scleria borii* D.M. Verma, *sp. nov.

Affinis *Scleria levi* Retz., a qua tamen differt nux brevior, oblata.

Herbae perennes, ca 1.2 m altae. Caules triquetri, ca 3 mm crassi, in angulis retrorse scabri. Folia culmo breviora, linearia, 3-10 mm lata, acuminata, margine et costa supra scaberula; vaginae alatae; contraligulae rotundatae, margine scarioso,

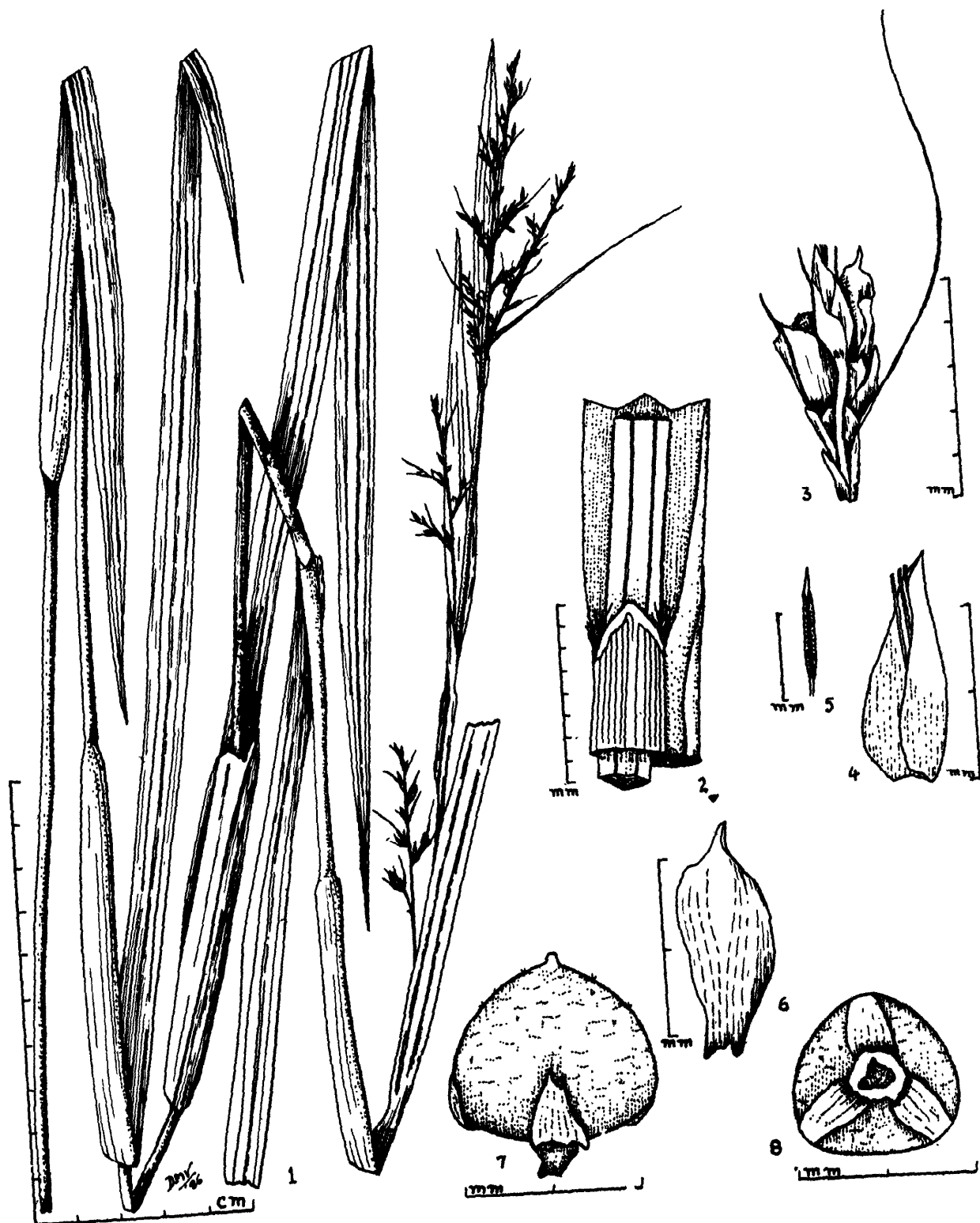
brunneo. Bracteae inferiores 3 foliaceae, paniculo aequantes, superiores gradatim setaceae. Inflorescentia depaniculata, interrupta, ca 30 cm longa, rami paniculae hirsuti; paniculae secundariae singulae; pedunculi graciles, pubescentes. Spiculae unisexuales, singulae sed interdum arcte approximatae; glumae stramineae, dense sanguineo-striolatae. Spiculae masculae oblongo-lineares, 2.5-3.0 mm longae; glumae elliptico-oblongae, acutae vel mucronatae, ca 2.5 mm longae. Stamina 3; antherae lineares, ca 1.2 mm longae. Spiculae femineae sessiles vel breviter pedicellatae, ca 4 mm longae; glumae latissime ovatae, acutae vel aristatae, 2.5-4.5 mm longae, pubescentes vel glabrescentes. Discus fere ad basim 3-lobatus, lobi lanceolati, appressi, tenues, straminei, tenuiter sanguineo-striolati, ad apicem denticulato-crenulati. Nux glumo leviter breviora, oblata, ca 2 mm longa, ca 2.3 mm lata, alba, apiculata, leviter reticulato-rugosa, glabra vel parce hirta, basi subtruncata.

Holotypus N.L. *Bor* 17808, Kangpokpi, 3000 feet, Manipur, INDIA, 2-9-1943 (DD).

Scleria borii* D.M. Verma, *sp. nov.

Allied to *Scleria levis* Retz. but differs in its shorter oblate nuts.

Perennial herbs, ca 1.2 m high. Stem



Scleria borii D.M. Verma, sp. nov.

Figs. 1-8 : 1: Habit. 2. Leaf-sheath. 3. Glomerule of male and female spikelets. 4. Male glume. 5. Anther. 6. Female glume. 7. Nut (side view). 8. Nut (basal view) (Bor 17808).

triquetrous, *ca* 3 mm across, retrorsely scabrous on the angles. Leaves shorter than the stem, linear, 5-10 mm broad, acuminate, margins and ribs scaberulous above; sheaths winged; contraligule rotundate, with a brown scarious margin. Bracts lower 3 foliaceous, equalling the panicle, upper gradually setaceous. Inflorescence depanicate, interrupted, *ca* 30 cm long, panicle branches hairy; secondary panicles solitary, on slender pubescent peduncles. Spikelets unisexual, solitary, though sometimes very close; glumes stramineous, densely red-brown striolate. Male spikelets linear-oblong, 2.5-3.0 mm long; glumes elliptic-oblong, acute or mucronate, *ca* 2.5 mm long. Stamens 3; anthers linear, *ca* 1.2 mm long. Female spikelets sessile or shortly pedicelled, *ca* 4 mm long; glumes broadly ovate, acute or aristate, 2.5-4.5 mm long, pubescent or glabrescent. Disk 3-lobed

almost to the base, lobes lanceolate, appressed, thin, stramineous, slenderly red-brown striolate, denticulate-crenulate at the apex. Nut slightly shorter than the glume, oblate, *ca* 2 mm long, *ca* 2.3 mm broad, white, apiculate, faintly reticulately rugose, glabrous or sparsely hairy, subtruncate at the base.

Holotype: N.L. Bor 17808, Kangpokpi, 3000 feet, Manipur, INDIA, 2-9-1943, in grassland (DD).

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