

A NEW HYPOLYTRUM (CYPERACEAE)
FROM MIDDLE ANDAMAN

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During a recent trip to the Andaman I., together with Prof. Dr. K. U. Kramer, Zürich, a *Hypolytrum* was collected. It had leafless stems, and combined some characters of *H. nemorum* (Vahl) Spreng. and *H. compactum* Valck. Sur. ex Clarke, and it appeared to represent a new species.

Hypolytrum balakrishnanii Nooteboom, *sp. nov.*

Hypolytrum caule c. 40 cm alto 3–5 mm lato foliis omnibus (sub-)basalibus caule longioribus 13–25 mm latibus. Inflorescentia composita dense contracta 10–25 mm lata bracteis 3–4; bractea inferiore foliis simile ad 40 cm longa. Spiculae oblongae ad lineares 5–10 mm longae c. 1.5 mm latae glumis membranaceis ovatis ad circularibus 1.5–2 mm longis c. 1.5 mm latis, costa non ad apicem attingentia extus minute apiculata, floribus fere longitudine glumarum, squamibus carina setulosa, antheris c. 0.5 mm longis.

T y p u s: BSI (A & N circle) Bhargawa 6358 (L, holo; isotypi in PBL, Z).

Stems stout, triquetrous, smooth, c. 40 cm by 3–5 mm. *Leaves* all (sub-)basal, longer than the stems, subcoriaceous, flat, more or less scabrous on margins and midrib beneath, 13–25 mm wide; basal sheaths bladeless, reddish or brownish, hardly keeled. *Inflorescence* compound, with many spikelets, contracted into a very dense, globose mass 10–25 mm across. *Bracts* 3–4, the lowest leaf-like, to 40 cm long. *Spikelets* oblong to linear, 5–10 by c. 1.5 mm, brown. *Glumes* membranaceous, ovate to almost circular, concave, often narrow scarious-margined, entire, muticous if seen from the inside, the midrib not reaching the apex, but top of midrib minutely apiculate on the outer surface, 1.5–2 by c. 1.5 mm. *Flowers* nearly as long as glumes, distributed around the spikelet only in the middle (from base to apex), the rest of the glumes empty; the *scales* seriate setulose on the keel, the setae more or less confluent; *anthers* linear-oblong, c. 0.5 mm long. *Nut* (unripe) compressed, elliptic to obovoid, c. 1.5 mm long.

D i s t r i b u t i o n: Andaman I, Middle Andaman, vicinity of Camp 15, construction area of trunk road, 24 km. S. of Rangat.

E c o l o g y: Heavily cut over primary forest; clay soil on very soft schist substrate; alt. 40 m.

N o t e s: Possibly this plant is of hybrid origin, most of the glumes being empty. Although in several spikelets the upper glumes were already fallen, no ripe nuts were present. However, no other *Hypolytrum* was observed in the region.

The new species is named in honor of Dr. N. P. Balakrishnan, Botanical Survey of India, Andaman – Nicobar Circle.