

## A NEW SPECIES OF DACTYLOCTENIUM FROM INDIA

by

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*Dactyloctenium Henrardianum* Bor spec. nov. quae ab omnibus aliis speciebus hujus generis inflorescentia racemosa haud digitata satis recedit.

An annual grass. Culms slender, 10—30 cm tall, erect, smooth, glabrous, striate in robust specimens, terete, long-exserted from the uppermost leaf-sheath. Leaf-sheaths strongly keeled, loose, slipping from the culm, much shorter than the internode and leaf-blade, markedly striate, smooth and glabrous except for some bristles from bulbous bases sparsely arranged near the margins in the upper fourth; ligule a lacerate membrane not more than 2 mm long. Leaf-blades up to 10 cm long by 5 mm wide at the base, gradually narrowed into a fine point from the rounded base, very scabrid on the margins which also bear long bulbous-based bristles in the lower third; upper surface smooth; lower surface often with bulbous-based bristles; midrib strongly marked with 2—3 prominent parallel veins on either side.

Inflorescence a raceme of spiculate spikes terminating a smooth long-exserted peduncle. Axis of the inflorescence simple, smooth, glabrous. Spikes racemously arranged, one, two or even three at a node, usually increasing in number from below upwards; internodes 8 mm to 1.5 cm long. Spikelets laterally compressed, 2—3-flowered, 2.5 mm long, arranged in two dense rows upon a scabrid axis; axis up to 1.5 cm long, ending in a mucro. Lower glume ovate-acute when flattened, 1.5 mm long, strongly compressed, hyaline apart from the green keel-nerve, which is scabrid. Upper glume ovate in shape, 1 mm long, hyaline, the scabrid keel-nerve being prolonged into an awn 1 mm long. Lemma almost orbicular in shape when flattened, 1.5 mm long, hyaline, strongly compressed; keel scabrid, prolonged into a recurved cusp 0.5 mm long, antrorsely scabrid. Grain enclosed in a reddish, rugose pericarp, 0.75 mm long.

This very distinct species was collected at Pamban, Ramnad District, Madras on 29.1.45 by Messrs. *Daniel and S. R. Raju* "in coconut topes, not very common". *Type* in Herb. Kew (no. 20089 Madras Herbarium).

I have dedicated this species to Dr J. Th. Henrard in recognition of his services to Botany in general and to the study of the Gramineae in particular.