

## ***Dimeria raviana* (Poaceae: Panicoideae), a new species from Southern Western Ghats, India**

M.S. KIRAN RAJ<sup>1</sup>, M. SIVADASAN<sup>2,4</sup>, A.H. ALFARHAN<sup>2</sup> & J.F. VELDKAMP<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Botany, Sree Narayana College, Cherthala, S. N. Puram P.O., Alappuzha - 688 582, Kerala, India.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Botany & Microbiology, College of Science, King Saud University, P.O. Box 2455, Riyadh - 11451, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

<sup>3</sup>Naturalis Biodiversity Center, P.O. Box 9517, 2300 RA, Leiden, The Netherlands.

<sup>4</sup>Corresponding author email: [drmsivadasan@gmail.com](mailto:drmsivadasan@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

*Dimeria raviana*, a new species of Poaceae from the Southern Western Ghats of Kerala, India is described and illustrated. It closely resembles *D. fuscescens*, but strikingly differs in having a flattened and winged raceme rachis of 1.0–1.25 mm in width with smooth margins.

**Key words:** *Andropogoneae*, *Dimeriinae*, Endemic species, Kerala

### **Introduction**

*Dimeria* Brown (1810: 2014) is an enigmatic member of the Poaceae (*Andropogoneae-Dimeriinae*) (Clayton & Renvoize 1986). This paleotropical genus is with ca. 65 species distributed in tropical Asian regions, and more than 40 species are present on the Indian subcontinent (Bor 1953, 1960, Clayton & Renvoize 1986, Jain 1986, Ravi *et al.* 2001, Kiran Raj & Sivadasan 2008). The genus is characterized by its usually equal and divergent binate racemes with laterally compressed spikelets. The callus is cylindrical, 0.5–1.0 mm long, and the glumes are keeled with margins with no auricles at apex.

During a taxonomic revision of *Dimeria* in peninsular India (Kiran Raj 2008), specimens with some distinct characters hitherto unnoticed in any of the known species were seen at CALI and KFRI. Detailed study revealed the novelty of the taxon which is described herein as a new species. It was collected from evergreen forest margins of the Periyar Tiger Reserve in the Southern Western Ghats in Kerala, India.

### **Taxonomy**

***Dimeria raviana*** Kiran Raj & Sivadasan, *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1)

**Type:**—INDIA. Kerala: Idukki District, Periyar Tiger Reserve, *s.d.*, 9° 18'–9° 41' N, 76° 55'–77° 25' E, ± 950 m elevation, *Jomy s.n.* (holotype CALI!, isotypes KFRI!).

*Dimeria raviana* closely resembles *D. fuscescens*, but differs in having a flattened and winged raceme rachis of 1.0–1.25 mm in width, with smooth margins.

Perennials. Culms robust, erect or geniculate from base, up to 70 cm long, sometimes rooting at the lower nodes; nodes shortly bearded. Leaves all along the culm; sheath much longer than internodes, very loose, keeled, smooth, pilose in the upper third with bulbous-based hairs; blade linear-acute, 4.0–15.0 × 0.2–0.4 cm, rounded at base, acuminate at apex, keeled on midrib below, keel continuous with that of the sheath, coarsely scabrid on nerves on both surfaces and margins, with bulbous-based hairs on upper surface and margins; ligule membranous, up to 1 mm long, ciliate on the

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