

Juncus wallichianus J. Gay ex Laharpe (family: *Juncaceae*), an addition to the flora of Chhattisgarh, India

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ABSTRACT

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Juncus wallichianus J. Gay ex Laharpe (*Juncaceae*) is recorded here as an addition to the flora of Chhattisgarh. The specimen was collected from Ambikapur in Surguja District, Chhattisgarh, India. Detailed description, scanned herbarium specimen, illustration and relevant notes are provided.

Keywords: *Juncus wallichianus*, new record, *Juncaceae*, flora of Chhattisgarh, India.

INTRODUCTION

During the study of old unidentified specimens housed at Botanical Survey of India, Central Regional Centre, Allahabad (BSA), the authors came across an interesting collection of family *Juncaceae* from Ambikapur in Surguja District, Chhattisgarh, India (Figure 1). After critical investigation of the specimens, with the help of available literature, the identity of specimens was confirmed as *Juncus wallichianus* J. Gay ex Laharpe. A perusal of relevant literature (Verma et al. 1985, Panigrahi & Murti 1989, Mudgal et al. 2001, Khanna et al. 2005, Bhaumik 2020) confirmed that this species was not reported earlier from Chhattisgarh and is therefore first reported here. Description and other particulars of this species are provided below.

DESCRIPTION

Juncus wallichianus J. Gay ex Laharpe, R. Br.,
Prodr. Fl. Nov. Holland 259. 1810. Hook. f., Fl.
Brit. India 6: 395. 1892.

Figure 2

Description: Perennial or annual herb, 20–40 cm high. Stem terete or compressed. Leaves in a basal tuft, up to 10 cm long, grass-like, leaf bases sheathing. Inflorescence cymes or paniced corymbs, flowers clustered in 6–10 heads. Flowers sessile, actinomorphic, free, erect, filiform, foliaceous, shorter than cymes, 2.5–4 × 0.5–1 cm, perianth c. 4 mm long, green. Anthers basifixed, introse, opening by a slit length-wise, pollen in tetrads; Ovary superior, 1-locular or divided by 3 septa or 3-locular, style 3, stigma 3. Fruits dry capsule, 1–3-locular.

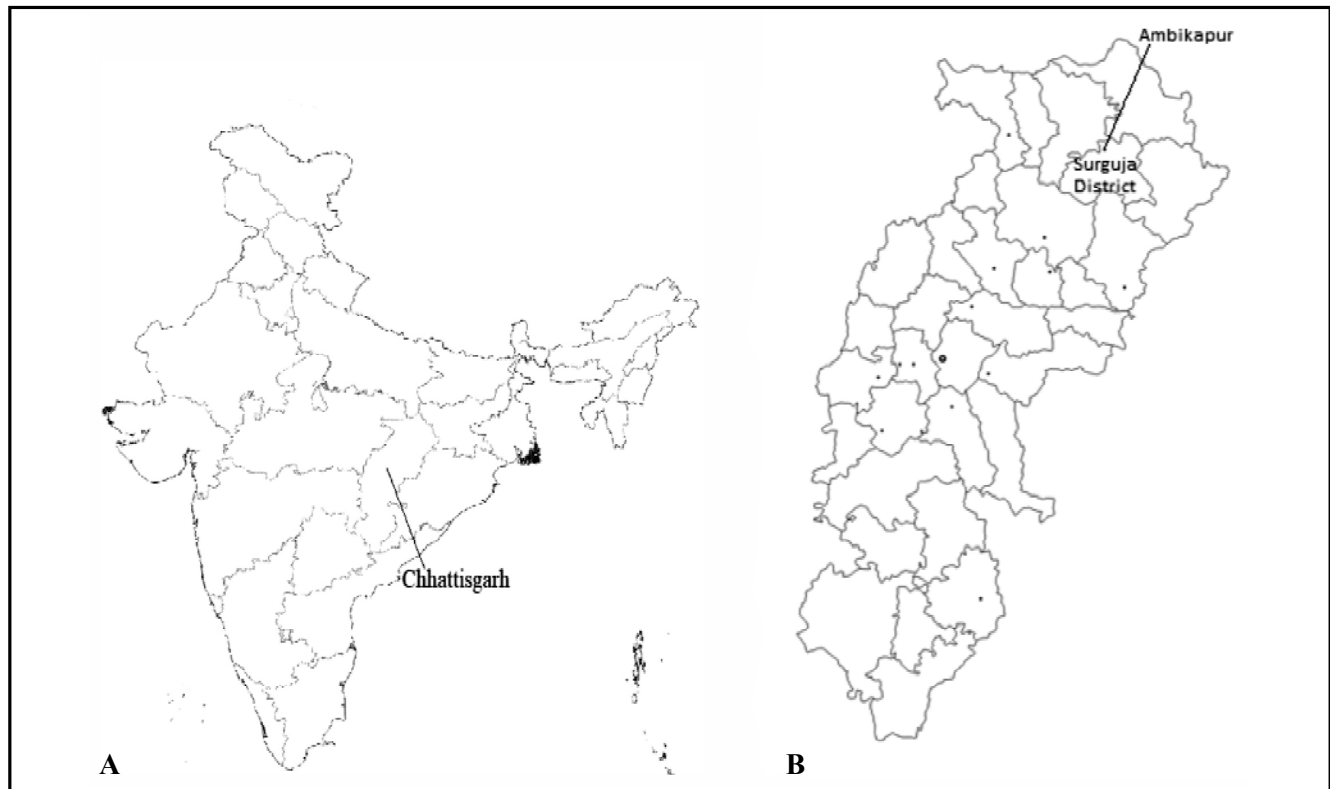


Figure 1. A. Map of India showing Chhattisgarh State. B. Map of Chhattisgarh showing location of Ambikapur in Surguja District, from where the specimen of *Juncus wallichianus* J. Gay ex Laharpe was collected.

Phenology: October–July (next year).

Ecology: Common in moist marshy areas and along hilly streams.

Distribution: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal.

Specimens examined: Chhattisgarh: Surguja District, Ambikapur locality of 25.02.1976, G. Sen Gupta 24160 (BSA), Barcode BSA000001984.

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Figure 2. Scanned image of herbarium specimen of *Juncus wallichianus* J. Gay ex Laharpe. Source: Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Central Regional Centre, Allahabad (BSA).



Figure 2