

## Rabbit's Foot Grass (*Polypogon*: Poaceae), A New Generic Record for the Telangana Flora

V. Jalander<sup>1\*</sup>, J. Swamy<sup>2</sup>, Devaraju Srinivas<sup>1</sup> and P.V. Ramana<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Botany, Telangana University, Dichpally, Nizamabad District, Telangana-503322

<sup>2</sup>Botanical Survey of India, Deccan Regional Centre, Room nos. 228-238, Kendriya Sadan, GPOA, Sultan Bazar, Koti, Hyderabad, Telangana- 500 095

<sup>3</sup>Government Junior College, Kaviti, Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh – 532322

\*Corresponding Author E-mail: [jalandervaghmare@gmail.com](mailto:jalandervaghmare@gmail.com)

Received: 15.02.2022 | Revised: 27.03.2022 | Accepted: 10.04.2022

### ABSTRACT

Rabbit's foot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis* (L.) Desf.: Poaceae) is collected from Nirmal district of Telangana in India is reported for the first time in the state. A detailed description with photographs is provided to facilitate easy identification.

**Keywords:** New distributional record, Nirmal, Poaceae, *Polypogon*, Telangana.

### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Polypogon* Desf. belonging to the family Poaceae Barnhart is distributed mainly in the warm temperate areas of the world (Clayton & Renvoize, 1986) and is represented by 23 species (POWO, 2022). In India, the genus is represented by three species and a variety (Mao & Dash, 2020).

While exploring the grasses of Telangana state, a population of a *Polypogon* species was observed in Degaon Village, Bhainsa Mandal, Nirmal District, Telangana, and a few specimens were collected from the existing populations by the authors. On critical taxonomic studies with pertinent literature (Bor, 1960), these voucher specimens were identified as *Polypogon monspeliensis* (L.) Desf. of Poaceae. The genus has not been recorded so far from the Telangana state

(Pullaiah, 2015; & Reddy & Reddy, 2016); hence, the present collection forms the first report of this genus in Telangana. A detailed description with photographs is provided to facilitate easy identification. Voucher specimens are deposited in Telangana University, Dichpally, Telangana.

### Taxonomic treatment

***Polypogon monspeliensis*** (L.) Desf. var. ***monspeliensis***, Fl. Atlant. 1: 67. 1798; Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 7: 245. 1896; Bor, Grasses Burma, Ceylon, India & Pakistan 403. 1960; Bhattacharya (Sunanda Moulik), Grasses Bamboos India 2: 415. 1997; Mao & Dash (eds.), Fl. Plants of India- an annotated checklist – Monocotyledons 412. 2020. *Alopecurus monspeliensis* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 61. 1753. (Fig.1)

**Cite this article:** Jalander, V., Swamy, J., Srinivas, D., & Ramana, P. V. (2022). Rabbit's Foot Grass (*Polypogon*: Poaceae), A New Generic Record for the Telangana Flora, *Ind. J. Pure App. Biosci.* 10(2), 47-49. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18782/2582-2845.8893>

This article is published under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

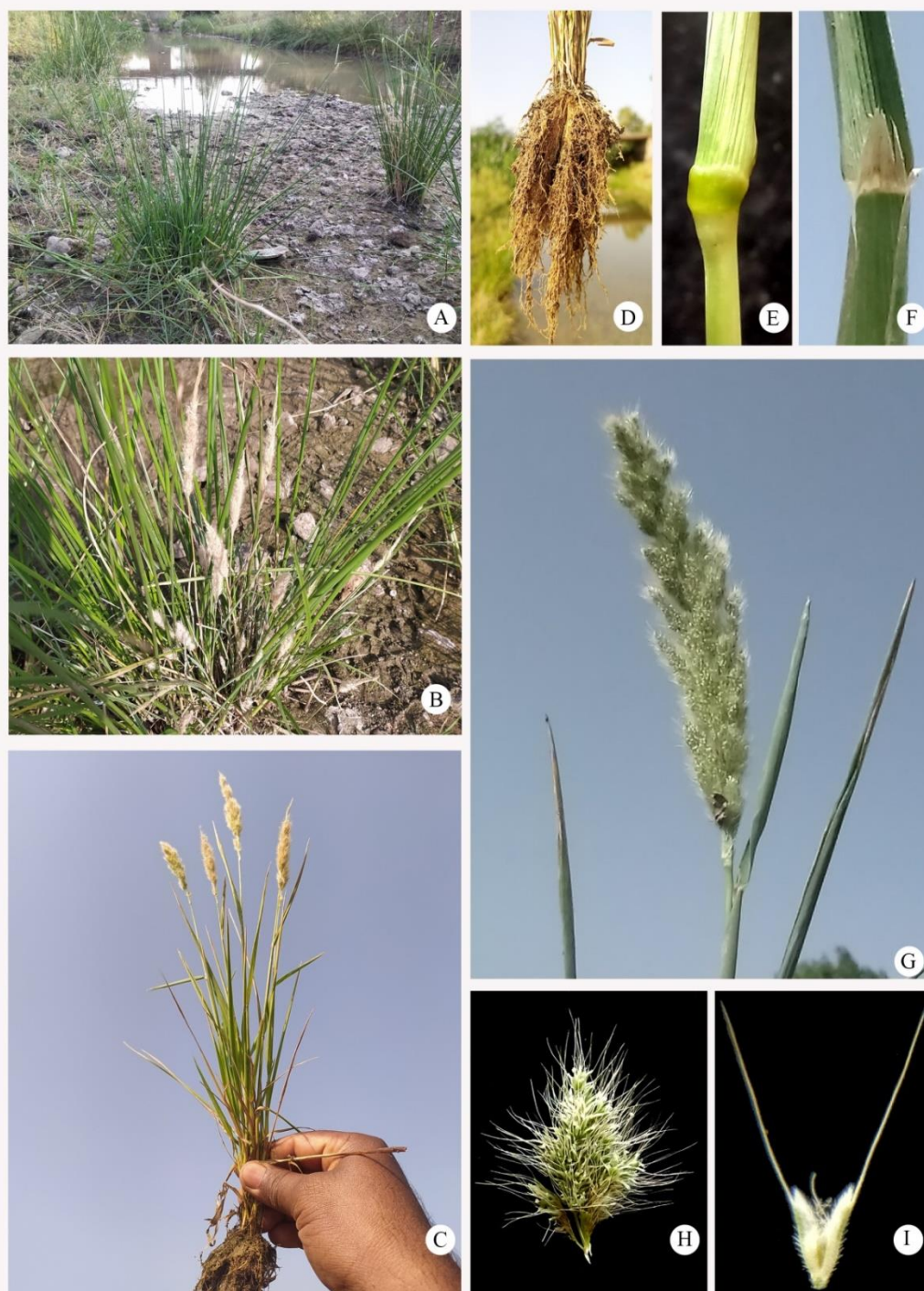


Fig. 1. *Polypogon monspeliensis* (L.) Desf. var. *monspeliensis*: A-B. Habitat; C. Habit; D. Roots; E. Node; F. Ligule; G. Inflorescence; H. Portion of Inflorescence; I. Spikelets.

Annual. Culms solitary or caespitose, geniculately ascending from base, slender, up to 60 cm high; nodes glabrous. Leaf-sheath compressed, up to 5 cm long; ligule an eciliate

membrane, up to 4 mm long; blade up to  $20 \times 0.7$  cm, linear, rounded at base, acute at apex, scaberulous, rough on surface. Inflorescence a panicle; panicle up to  $5 \times 2$  cm long, dense,

spiciform, narrowly oblong, or ovate, lobed, light green or yellowish, branched; branches with numerous branchlets from base, scaberulous; rachis fragile. Spikelets crowded, laterally compressed, 2– 4 mm long, narrowly oblong, awned. Glumes subequal, similar, exceeding the apex of florets. Lower glume oblong, 2– 4 × 0.4– 0.5 mm, obscurely 1– nerved, scabrid on keels, ciliate on margins, shortly notched at apex with 2– 5 mm long, scaberulous awn. Upper glume similar, little longer. Lemma oblong, 1–1.5 × 0.4 – 0.5 mm, obscurely nerved, dentate, 2-4-fid at apex, awned; awn up to 2 mm long. Palea hyaline, ovate, 0.6 – 1 × 0.3 – 0.4 mm, acute at apex. Stamens 3; anthers 0.3 – 0.5 mm long. Caryopsis obovoid.

**Flowering & Fruiting:** January - June.

**Habitat:** Occasional along the streams and water bodies.

**Distribution:** India: Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal and now from Telangana.

South Africa, to eastwards Asia via Mediterranean region, India and China.

**Specimen examined:** India, Telangana, Nirmal District, Bhainsa Mandal, Degaon Village, 19°04'06.1"N, 77°56'23.6"E, 352 m.s.l., 30.01.2022, V. Jalander 712 (TU!).

**Uses:** Palatable grass.

#### **Acknowledgements:**

The authors are thankful to the Director,

Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata and Scientist In-charge of BSI, Deccan Regional Centre, Hyderabad and Head Department of Botany, Telangana University, Nizamabad for their facilities and encouragement.

#### **Funding:**

The author(s) did not receive any financial support for the study.

#### **Conflict of Interest:**

The author(s) declares no conflict of interest.

#### **Author Contribution:**

All authors have contributed equally to the manuscript.

### **REFERENCES**

- Bor, N. L. (1960). The grasses of Burma, Ceylon, India, and Pakistan (excluding Bambuseae). Pergamon Press, London.
- Clayton, W. D., & Renvoize, S. A. (1986). *Genera Graminum*. HMSO, London.
- Mao, A. A., & Dash, S. S. (2020). *Flowering Plants of India- An Annotated Checklist (Monocotyledons)*. Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata.
- POWO (2022). *Plants of the World Online*. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Available at: <http://www.plantsoftheworldonline.org/> (Accessed on 18.02.2021).
- Pullaiah, T. (2015). *Flora of Telangana- the 29th state of India*. Vol.3. Regency Publications, New Delhi.
- Reddy, K. N., & Reddy, C. S. (2016). *Flora of Telangana State, India*. Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehra Dun.