



MORPHOLOGICAL STUDY OF POLYPOGON MONSPELIENSIS (L.) DESF., A COMMON KITCHENGARDEN GRASS OF CHOUPARAN, HAZARIBAG, JHARKHAND

Science

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ABSTRACT

Polypogon monspeliensis (L.) Desf. is a common kitchen garden grass belonging to the family Poaceae/ Gramineae (Bor, 1960). In English, it is known as annual beard-grass or rabbitsfoot grass (Hooker, 1896). It is commonly found in Chouparan Block of Hazaribag District, falls under Jharkhand state of India (Singh et al. 2001). It started flowering in spring season. The inflorescence is so smooth and greenish in colour (see photographs). It is a common weed. In initial stage, the inflorescence is not splitted but on maturity it get splitted.

KEYWORDS

kitchen garden grass, Poaceae, smooth.

INTRODUCTION

Polypogon monspeliensis (L.) Desf., Fl. Atl. 1: 67, 1798; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 7: 245. 1896; Haines, Bot. Bihar & Orissa pt. 5: 976. 1924 (Repr. Ed., 3: 1021. 1961); Bor, Grass. Burm. Ceyl. Ind. Pak. 403. 1960; Singh et al., Fl. Bihar 644. 2001; Paria & Chattopadhyay, Fl. Hazaribagh District 2: 1123. 2005. *Alopecurus monspeliensis* L. Spl. Pl. 61. 1753.

P. monspeliensis (L.) Desf. is an annual grass. It's culms are found to be tufted, stout or slender. The leaves are reported as linear and scabrid. Panicle is cylindrical (Paria and Chattopadhyay, 2005). Spikelets are long. The grass is very common in kitchen garden and farmlands as weed. It's flowering and fruiting occurs from February to April.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

The research is carried out at Chouparan. The site has been visited fortnightly and the specimens of *Polypogon monspeliensis* (L.) Desf. were collected and treated with 10% formalin there and the bundles were kept in tight polythene bags. Now all these specimens were spread out at home in loose papers then pressed them among blotting papers. Blotting papers have been changed every day for 6-10 days so that water and moisture get soaked. Since these are treated with formalin so there is no need to poison. Now these have been mounted on mounting sheets (28x42 cm) and identify them with the help of flora of the region concerned and later has been confirmed at Botanical Survey of India, Howrah.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the study of specimens, *Polypogon monspeliensis* (L.) Desf. was found to be an annual grass. Culms are tufted and slender (Haines, 1924) and 13- 60 cm long. Leaves are linear and scabrid, ligule is lanceolate. The panicle is cylindrical and 3.5- 14 cm long and light green in colour. Pedicels are disarticulating near base. Spikelets are 2-3 mm long. Glumes are subequal, linearly oblanceolate-oblong. Lemma is ovate and 1.2 to 1.4 mm long, obscurely nerved. Awns were found to be as long as lemma or shorter or absent. Palea are 2- toothed or 2-mucronulate. Caryopsis is subterete, grooved and from 1.2 to 1.5 mm long. The grass serves as fodder for animals.



Fig.: Photographs showing its habit and panicles.

Ecology: Very common in kitchen garden and farmlands.

Flowering and Fruiting: February to April.

Uses: As fodder for animals and is also used for ornamental purposes.

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