

**A NEW SPECIES OF CYMBOPOGON SPRENG. (GRAMINEAE)
FROM BURMA**

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ABSTRACT

An illustrated description of the new species *Cymbopogon mandalaiaensis* S. Soenarko is presented and it is compared with the closely related species *C. nervatus* (Hochst.) Chiov. and *C. clandestinus* (Steud.) Stapf.

ABSTRAK

Suatu pertelaan bergambar daripada jenis baru *Cymbopogon mandalaiaensis* S. Soenarko disajikan dan jenis ini dibandingkan dengan kerabat dekatnya *C. nervatus* (Hochst.) Chiov. dan *C. clandestinus* (Steud.) Stapf.

During my study on the systematics of the genus *Cymbopogon* Spreng. (Gramineae) in the Department of Botany, University of Reading, Reading, and in the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, I have found some specimens from Burma which were Wrongly identified as *C. nervatus* (Hochst.) Chiov. They are considered to belong to a new species which is described below. I am grateful to Prof. V. H. Heywood (Reading) and Dr. W. D. Clayton (Kew) for supervising my study and in helping with the Latin description.

Cymbopogon mandalaiaensis S. Soenarko, *sp. nov.* — Fig. 1

C. clandestinus (Steud.) Stapf affinis, sed spiculis glabris et gluma inferiore spiculae sessilis longitudinaliter profunde sulcata, vitulis oleiferis in lateribus utrisque sulci praedita, differt.

TYPUS: *U Thein Lwin 94* (K).

Perennial or annual; culm erect or geniculate, up to 120 cm high, often solitary, glabrous, nodes swollen, with stilt roots at the lower nodes. Leaf-blades rigid, 9 mm wide, smooth, rounded at the base. Leaf-sheaths

* Present address: Herbarium Bogoriense, Bogor, Indonesia.

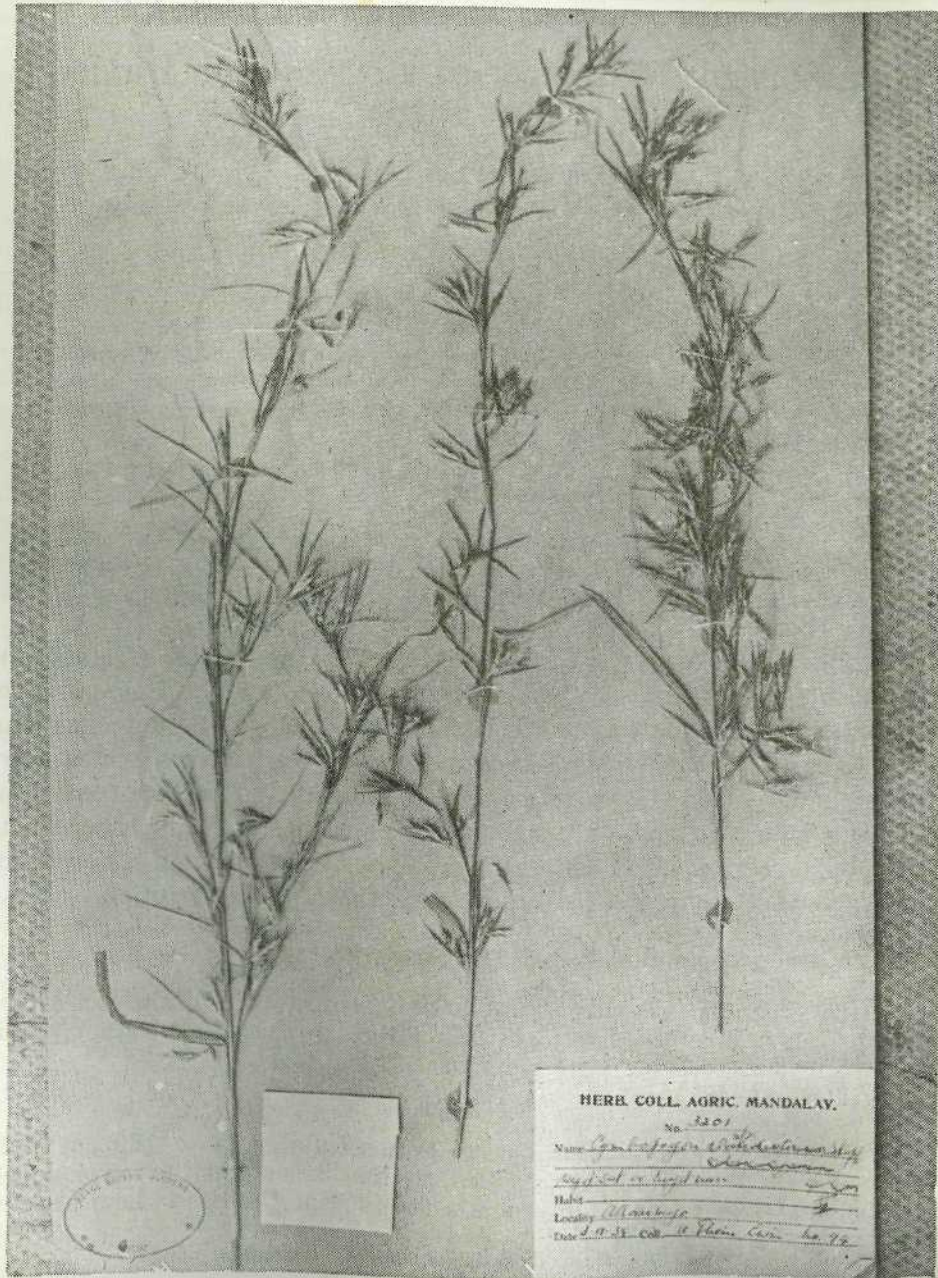


Fig. 1. *Cymbopogon mandalaiaensis* S. Soenarko inflorescences (holotype, K).

glabrous. Ligule subchartaceous, 5 mm long. Spathate panicle erect, narrow and often interrupted, about 50 cm long, with loose branches; spatheole 27 mm long, subchartaceous, glabrous; peduncle slender, stout. Racemes 22 mm long; lower raceme-base and lowermost pedicel more or less swollen, almost glabrous; rhachis internodes and pedicels pilose along the margins, glabrous on the back. Sessile spikelet 4.5 mm long; lower glume lanceolate, 0.8 mm wide, subchartaceous, with deep median groove, nerveless or 2-nerved, with brown oil-marks along the nerves, broadly winged, glabrous; upper glume glabrous, membrano-chartaceous, rounded on the back; awn more or less 22 mm long. Pedicellate spikelet 4.5 mm long, glabrous; lower glume narrowly ovate-lanceolate, 1.2 mm wide, acuminate, glabrous; upper glume membrano-chartaceous.

HABITAT: Grasslands in dry places.

DISTRIBUTION: Endemic to Mandalay, Burma.

This species was identified by Bor (*in J. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc.* 52: 150. 1954) as *C. nervatus* (Hochst.) Chiov. from East Africa. It has the lower glume of the sessile spikelet similar to that of *C. nervatus*, having oil-marks along both sides of the median groove, and stilt roots at the base of the culm. However it differs from *C. nervatus* in small but numerous characters. In *C. mandalaiaensis* the median groove is deep, corresponding to a keel inside similar to that of *C. martinii* (Roxb.) Stapf, whilst in *C. nervatus* it is very shallow. The leaf-blades in this new species are rigid and rounded at the base; the lower glume of the sessile spikelet is broadly winged; and the awn is much longer than that of *C. nervatus*, which is only 14–15 mm long.

In appearance it closely resembles *C. clandestinus* (Steud.) Stapf, but the latter has hairy spikelets and no oil-marks. Both species are endemic to Mandalay District of Upper Burma.

BURMA Mandalay. Tatkon, 7.XI.1928, D. Rhind 928 (K); *ibid.*, 28.XI.1921, U Ba Thein I (K); Allannmujo, 3.XI.1939, U Thein Lwin 94 (K, holotype); Mambu Steamer Ghat, Dec. 1908, J. Mckenna & I.H. Burkill 31551 (K); Maklaing, 17.XI.1928, E.B. Minus (K).