

## Taxonomy of *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers, A Medicinal grass of Hazribag, Jharkhand, India

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### ABSTRACT

*Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers. is commonly known as 'Dub Grass'. It is very common grass creeping by scaly rhizomes or by strong flat stolons. Culms long, slender and glabrous. Leaves distichous (Haines 1924). Spikelets light green. This grass is religiously and medicinally most important as it is used in cut, wound, diarrhoea, dysentery, etc. apart from its other uses.

**Key words:** Dub Grass, creeping, religiously, medicinally.

### INTRODUCTION

*Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers., Syn. Pl. 1: 85. 1805; Hook.f. in Fl. Brit. India 7: 288. 1896; Prain, Bengal Pl. 2: 1227. 1903 (Rep. Ed. 2: 925. 1963); Haines, Bot. Bihar & Orissa pt. 5: 966. 1924; Bor, Common Grasses of the United Provinces 110. 1940; Bor, Grasses Burma Ceyl. Ind. Pak. 469. 1960; Sreekumar & Nair, Fl. Kerala Grasses 360. 1991; Singh *et al.*, Fl. Bihar 607. 2001; Paria & Chattopadhyay, Fl. Hazaribagh District 2: 1059. 2005; Kabir & Nair, Fl. Tamil Nadu Grasses 195. 2009. *Panicum dactylon* L., Sp. Pl. 58. 1753.

*C. dactylon* (L.) Pers. is a perennial plant belonging to the family Poaceae (Singh *et al.* 2001). It is very common grass creeping by scaly rhizomes or by strong flat stolons (Bor 1940). Culms long, slender and glabrous. Leaves distichous on barren shoots and at lower part of the culms; blades linear, acute, glaucous, smooth on lower surface and scaberulous above; sheath smooth; ligule a ring of white hairs. Spikelets light green.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research has been carried out at Gautam Buddha Wildlife Sanctuary, Hazaribag, Jharkhand. The sanctuary was visited fortnightly and the specimens of *C. dactylon* (L.) Pers. were collected. These are treated with 10% formalin there and the bundles were kept in tight polythene bags. After coming from sanctuary all these specimens were spreaded out in loose papers then pressed them among blotting papers. Blotting papers were changed every day for 6-10 days so that it soaks water and moisture. Now, it is ready to poison but since these are treated with formalin so there's no need to poison. Now these are mounted on mounting sheets (24x42 cm) and identify them with

the help of flora of the region concerned and later confirmed it at Botanical Survey of India, Howrah.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the taxonomical study of *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers., it has been observed that the culms are 6-32 cm high. Leaves upto 12x0.2 cm, glaucous, usually acuminate, sheaths smooth; ligule as a rim of hairs. Spikes 2-8, digitate 1.5-5 cm long, green, rachis scaberulous, compressed. Spikelets upto 2.2 mm long. Glumes upto 1.5 mm long, 1-nerved, ovate, acute; keel scaberulous. Lemma about as long as the spikelet, ovate-oblong, margin scabrid. Palea little shorter than the lemma, 2-nerved, linear-oblong, obtuse; keels scabrid. Caryopsis upto 1.3 mm long.

This forms extensive patches in open grounds (Paria and Chattopadhyay 2005). Flowering and fruiting occur in all round the year (Singh *et al.* 2001). Its leaves are very auspicious and used extensively in all religious festivals. It is used as pasture and lawn grass (Roy 1984). It is a good soil binder and find even in dry condition also when most of the grasses dry out. The local people employ the juice of the leaves in healing the cuts (Sreekumar and Nair 2009). Rhizomes are used in genitor-urinary troubles. Besides these in action it is anti-abortive, astringent, conceptive, demulcent, diuretic, haemostatic, ophthalmic and suppurative (Dey 1998). Useful in anasarca, catarrhal ophthalmia, cut and wounds, diarrhoea and dysentery, dropsy and dysuria, eye affections, epilepsy, hysteria and insanity, marks and blemishes, piles, bleeding, skin diseases, ulcers and wound. Extract of the rhizome is applied to check bleeding from the cut (Mitra and Mukherjee 2005).

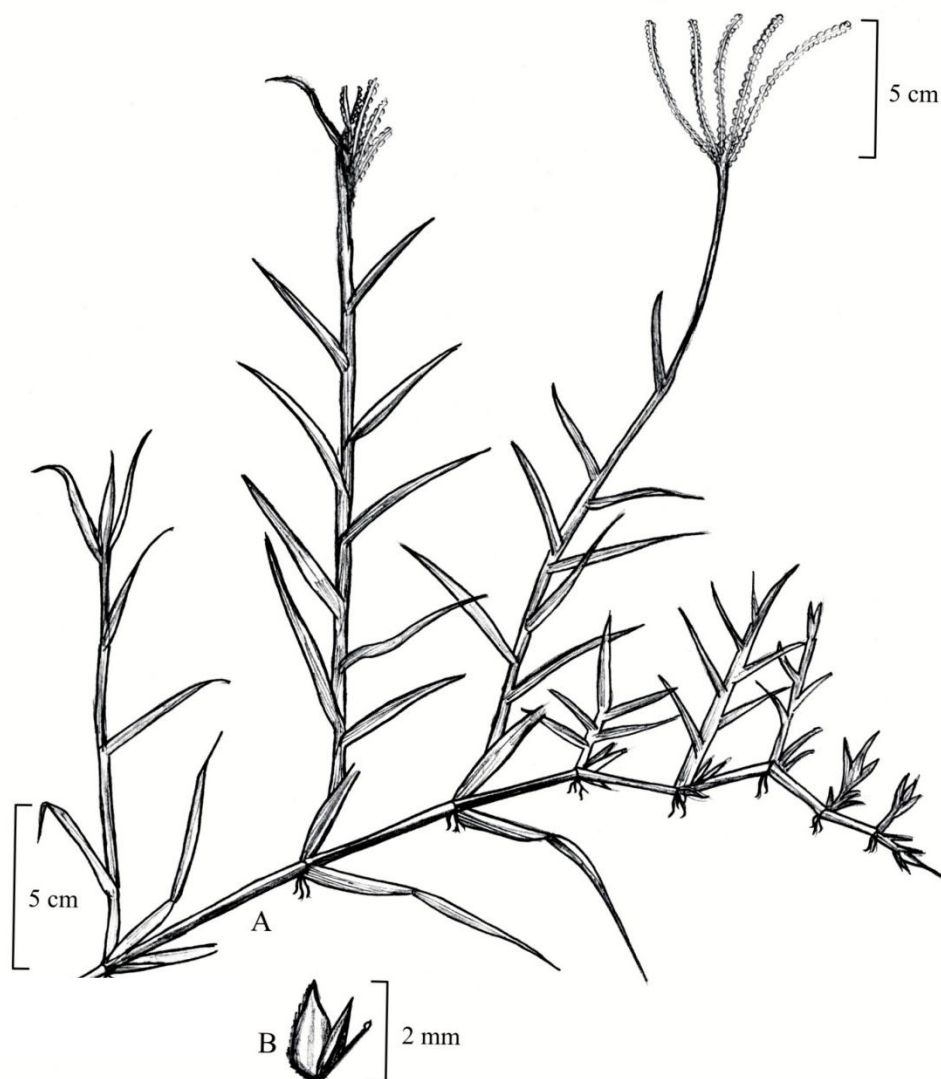


Fig: *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.

- A. Habit.
- B. Spikelet.

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