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THREE NEW SPECIES AND A NEW VARIETY OF MONOCOTYLEDONS FROM SAVANTWADI, MAHARASHTRA¹

S. M. ALMEIDA²

(With two plates & four text-figures)

During the floristic studies of Savantwadi taluka, Sindhudurg Dist, Maharashtra, I came across a number of interesting plants. Critical studies on these specimens at Blatter Herbarium, has revealed three new species and a new variety.

1. *Pycneus bolei* sp. nov.

Herba caespitosa $\pm$ 30 cm alta foliis linearibus costis prominentibus fuscis. Inflorescentia spicis compactis sessilibus stellatis linearibus stramineis bractatis. Glumae ovatae aristatae

carinatae. Stamina dua parva filamentis tenuibus. Nux oblanceolata apiculata compressa paginis tuberculatis longitudinalibus.

Rare in oryzae aperis agribus.

Holotypus: SMA-3438, lectus Satarda — Savantwadi 22-10-1980.

Similis *Pycneo globoso* (All.) Reich externo aspectu sed differt spiculis acuminatis facile separabilibus et rhachide plana et parvis staminibus.

Tufted herb, $\pm$ 30 cm tall. Stems striate. Leaves flat, 27-30 cm long, linear, narrowing to the apex, glabrous with prominent brown midrid. Inflorescence of compact, sessile, stellate, linear spikes, bracteate. Rays 3-4 in

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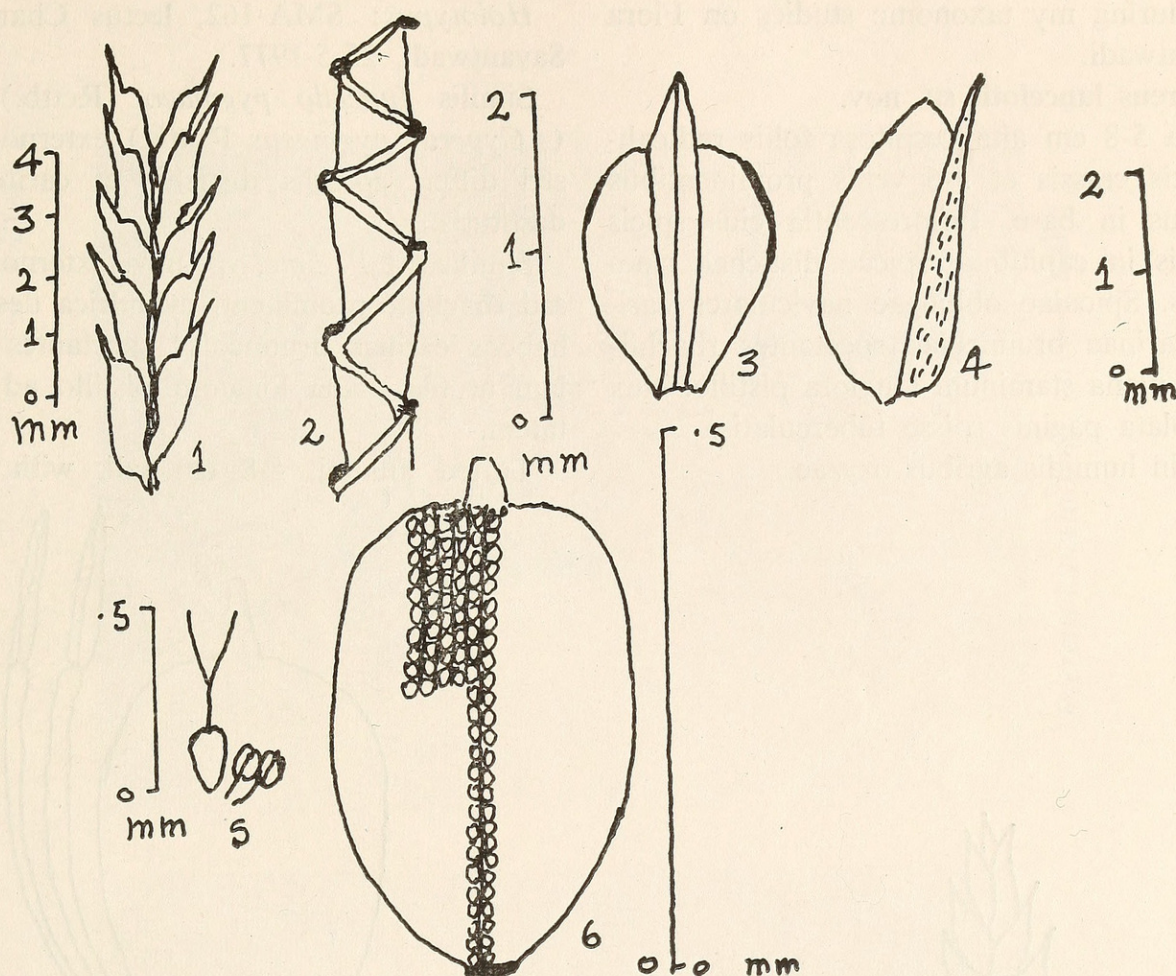


Fig. 1. *Pycreus bolei* sp. nov.: 1. Spikelet; 2. Rachis; 3. Glume (back view); 4. Glume (side view); 5. Pistil & Stamens; 6. Nut.

number, 4.5-5 cm long, slender, glabrous. Bracts 4-5, glabrous, leaf-like with prominent midrib, 15-20 cm long, 2-3 mm wide, imbricating at the base, curling at the apex after drying. Spikes linear, sessile, 0.7-1.3 cm long, 0.2-0.3 mm wide, straw coloured with 25-40 spikelets. Rachilla not winged, glabrous. Glumes ovate, 0.5-1 mm long, 0.5-0.7 mm wide, aristate, keeled. Keels brown, hyaline on the margins. Stamens 2, small, with slender filaments. Ovary oblanceolate; styles as long as ovary; stigmas 2, equal to the length of the style. Nut oblanceolate, compressed, shortly apiculate, marked with longi-

tudinal rows of tubercles on the surface.

Rare herb in open paddy fields near river banks.

Flowering: October-November. *Locality:* Satarda (Savantwadi).

Holotype: SMA — 3438.

Pycreus bolei sp. nov. resembles *Pycreus globosus* (All.) Reich. in external appearance, but differs from it in the presence of easily detachable, acuminate spikelets and also in the presence of flat rachis and small stamens.

This species is named after Prof. P. V. Bole, for the guidance and encouragement

shown during my taxonomic studies on Flora of Savantwadi.

2. *Pycreus lanceolotii* sp. nov.

Annua 5-8 cm alta cespitosa foliis radicalibus costis crassis et 5-6 venis prominentibus lateralibus in base. Inflorescentia eius spicis compactis in capitibus. Spicae distichae cinescentes. Spiculae oblongae naviculares carinatae; carinae brunneolae spectantes rhachillas. Fila plana staminum longiora pistillo. Nux oblancoolata paginis spisse tuberculatis.

Rare in humidis agribus ozyae.

Holotypus: SMA-162, lectus Charatha — Savantwadi, 25-5-1977.

Similis *Juncello pygmaeo* (Rettb.) Clarke (= *Cyperus pygmaeus* Rottb.) externo aspectu sed differt spiculis distichis et carinis alatis destitutis.

Similis est *P. bolei* sp. nov. externo aspectu sed rhachide prominenti cylindrica destituta et habens carinas brunneolas spectantes rhachillam at fila plana longiora pistillo ad maturitatem.

Tufted annual, 5-8 cm tall, with number

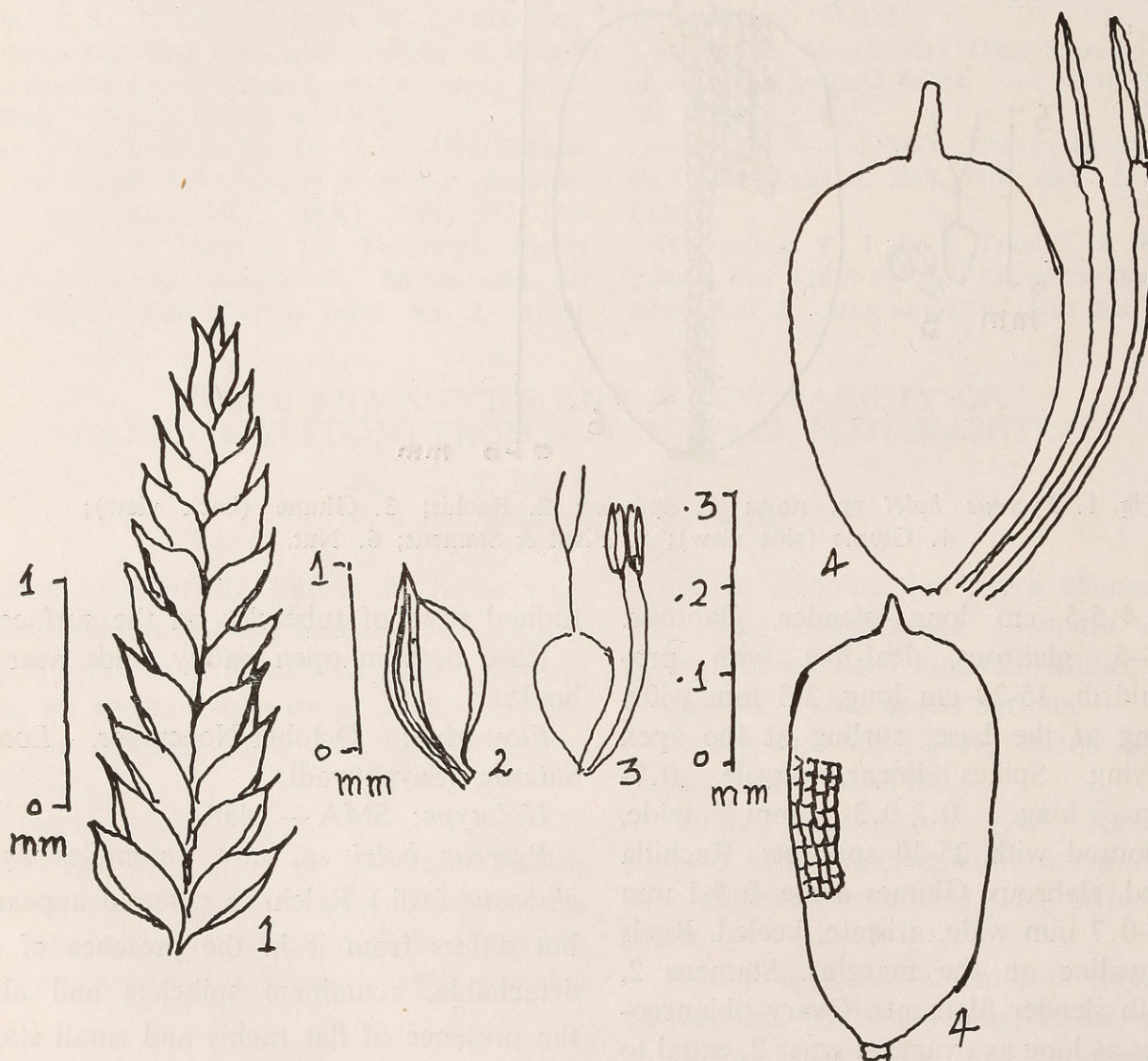
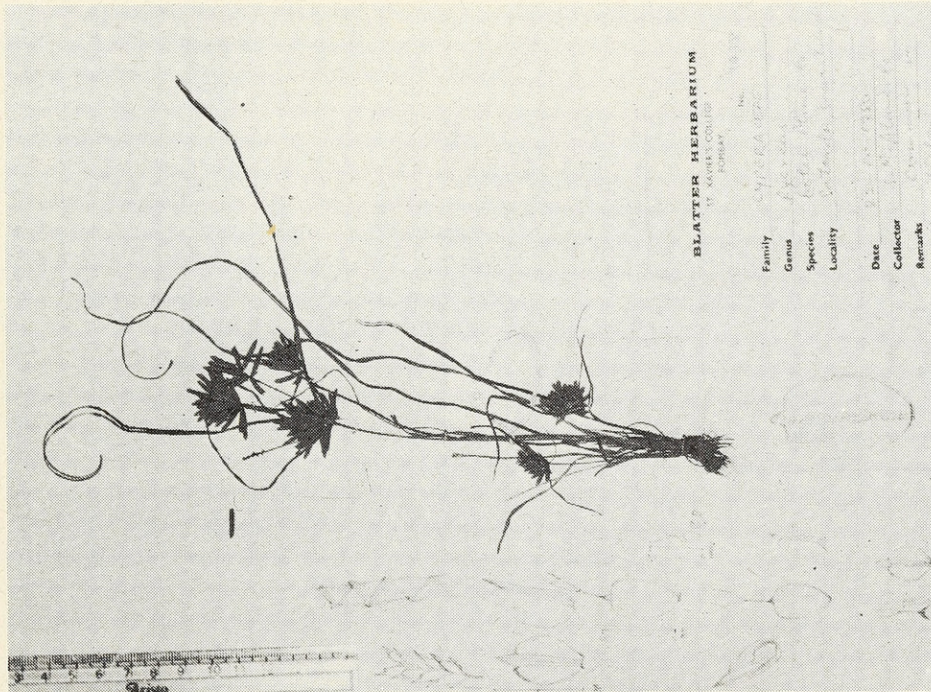
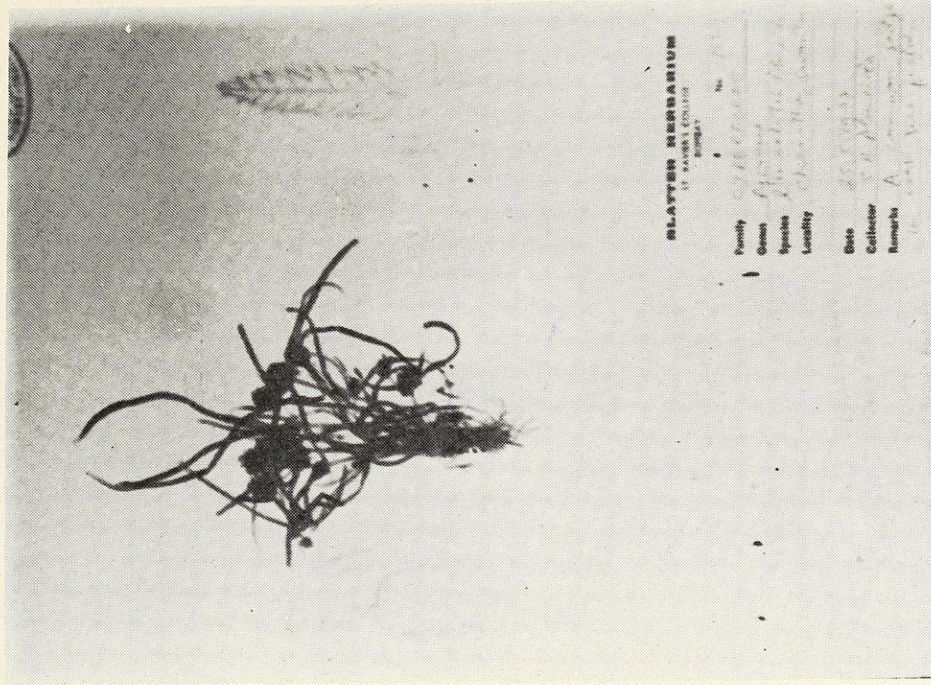


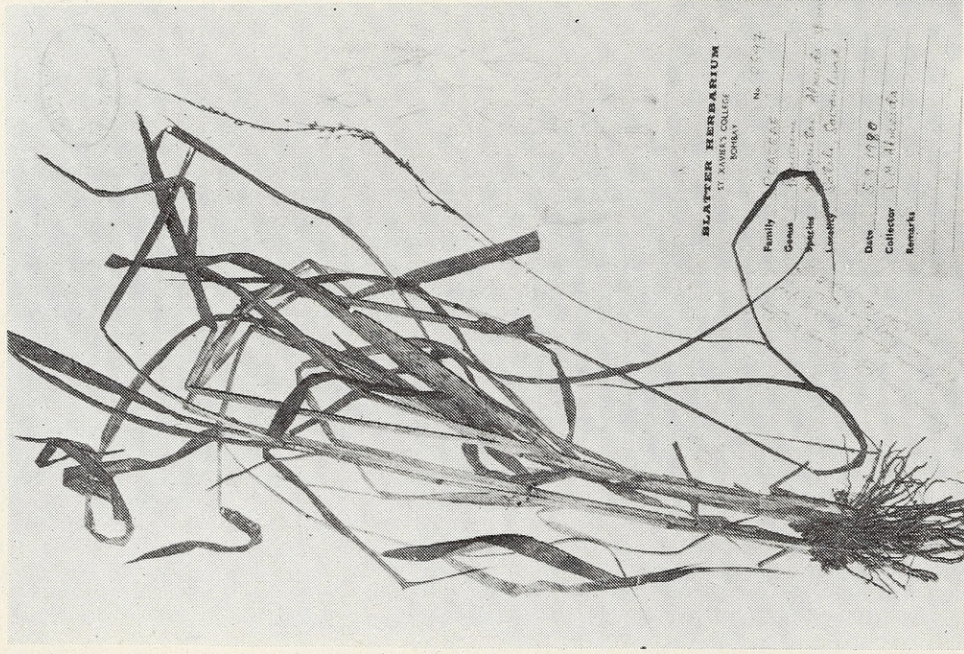
Fig. 2. *Pycreus lanceolotii* sp. nov.: 1. Spikelet; 2. Glume; 3. Pistil and Stamens; 4. Variable shape of nuts; 4. Nut and mature stamens.



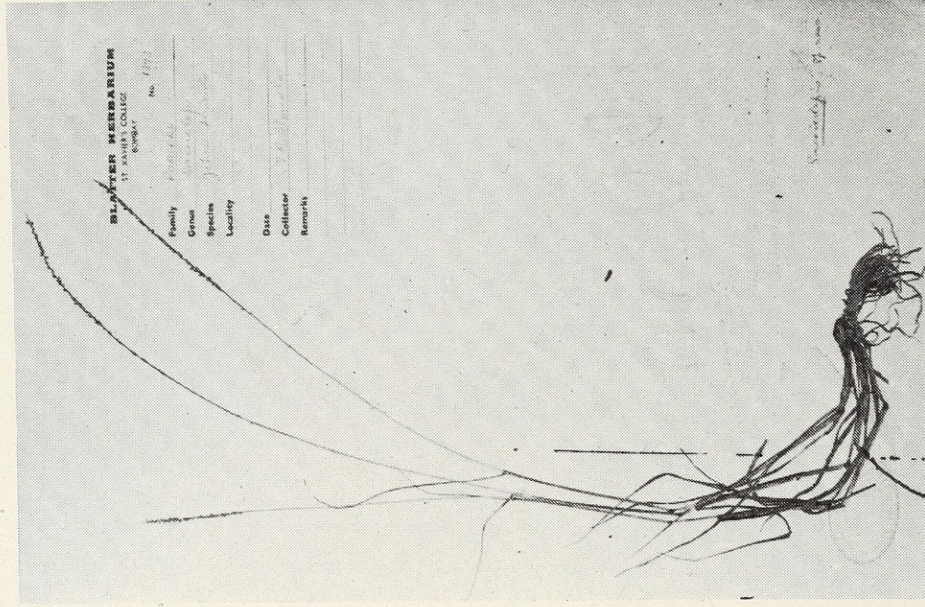
Pycreus bolei sp. nov. — Habit.



Pycreus lanceolotii sp. nov. — Habit.



Panicum johnii sp. nov. — Habit.



Sacciolepis indica (Linn.) Chase var.
intermedia var. nov. — Habit.

NEW DESCRIPTIONS

of slender fibrous roots. Leaves radical, linear, flat, glabrous, 8-10 cm long, 1.5-2 mm broad, tapering to the apex, broader at the base with thick mid-vein and 5-6 prominent lateral veins at the base; margins thick. Scape 5-7 cm long, dull grey, striate, flat, glabrous. Inflorescence of compact spikes forming heads, bracteate. Bracts 3-4, leaf-like, imbricating, much exceeding the rachis, 6-8 cm long, 1-2 mm broad at the base, narrowing to the apex to a point. Midrib thick and prominent, lateral veins faint. Margins thick, glabrous. Rays 3-5 in number, 1-1.5 cm long, striate, glabrous. Spikes radiating, dull grey, distichous. Spikelets oblong, compactly arranged on rachilla, boat-shaped, acute, glabrous, keeled; keel membranous and hyaline on the sides

facing the rachilla, brownish towards outside. Stamens 2, much longer than the ovary, projecting beyond the style on maturation; anthers linear; filaments flat. Ovary obovoid; style slender; stigma 2-fid. Nut oblongate, shortly beaked, with compactly arranged tubercles on the surface.

Rare sedge in wet rice fields.

Flowering: May. Locality: Charatha (Savantwadi)

Holotype: SMA-162.

Pycneus lanceolotii sp. nov. resembles *Juncellus pygmaeus* (Rottb.) Clarke (= *Cyperus pygmaeus* Rottb.) in external appearance, but differs from it in the distichous arrangement of spikelets on the rachis and in the absence of winged keel of the spikelets. *P. lanceolotii* also

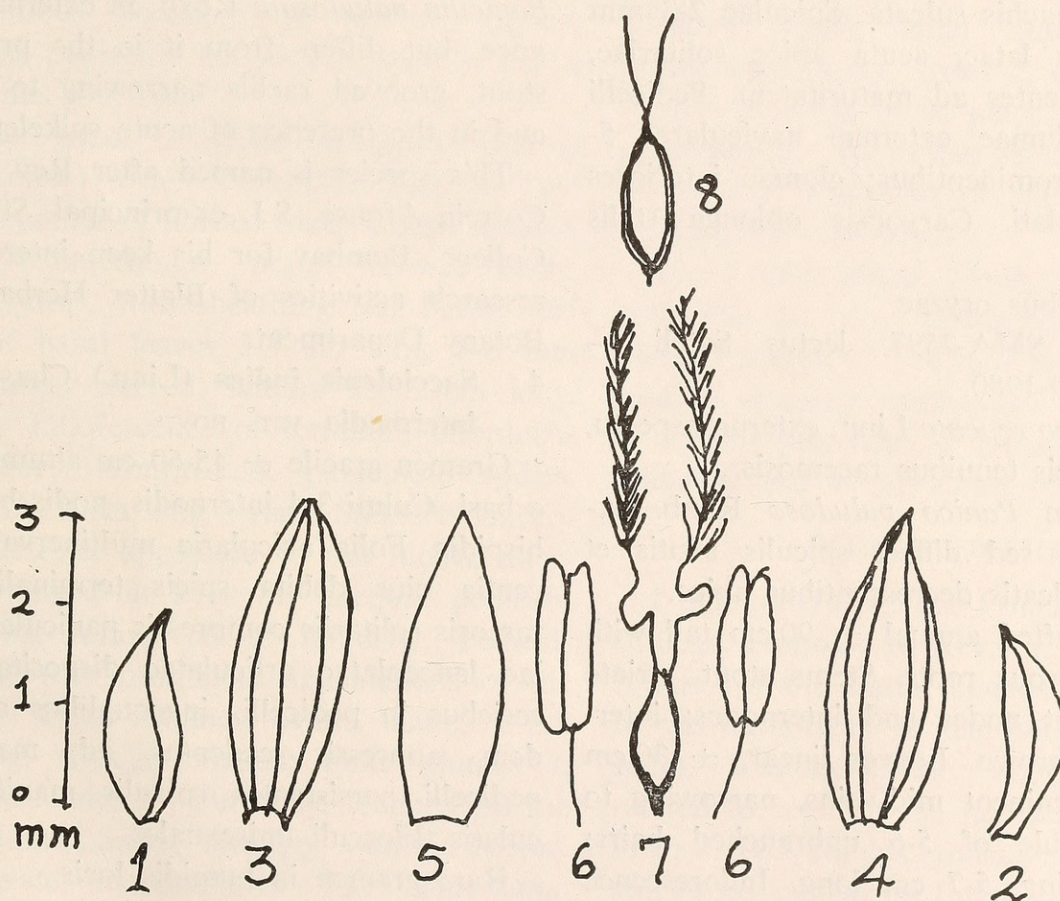


Fig. 3. *Panicum johnii* sp. nov.: 1. Outer glume; 2. Inner glume; 3. Outer lemma; 4. Inner lemma; 5. Palea; 6. Stamens; 7. Pistil; 8. Caryopsis.



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