

**A NEW COMBINATION IN THE GENUS *DIPLACRUM* R. BR.
(CYPERACEAE) FROM INDIA**

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The genus *Diplacrum* R. Br. (1810) is distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of America, Africa, Asia, Australia and Lesser Sunda Islands and represented by eight (Govaerts and Simpson, 2007) to nine (www.theplantlist.org) species. The genus was described by Robert Brown (1810: 240) based on its two glumes which tightly enclose the nutlet and shed with it, nature of female spikelets and their distinctive facies. Later, the genus was merged in *Scleria* P. Bergius and treated in a separate section *Diplacrum* (Bentham, 1878; Clarke, 1894; Kern, 1961, Rao and Verma, 1982; Wadoodkhan, 1999). However, Simpson and Koyama (1998) and Govaerts and Simpson (2007) reinstated Robert Brown's *Diplacrum* as a genus. Recently, the distinction of *Diplacrum* from *Scleria* as a genus is further corroborated based on three DNA markers (Bauters *et al.*, 2016). *Diplacrum*, accordingly finds place in the tribe Bisboeckelereae (Bauters in Bauters *et al.*, 2016). In Indian floras, three species of *Scleria*, namely *S. caricina* (R.Br.) Benth., *Scleria poklei* Wad. Khan and *Scleria africana* Benth. are kept under the sections *Diplacrum* R. Br. and *Sphaeropus* (Boeck.) respectively by Dey and Prasanna (2015). Of these, one was originally described as *Diplacrum caricinum* R. Br. Another (*S. africana* Benth.) was also transferred to the genus *Diplacrum*. In the third species, *S. poklei*, nuts are hidden by glumes and falls off together which so far known from Maharashtra, India, needs to be transferred and it is being done here under.

***Diplacrum poklei* (Wad. Khan) Chandramohan, comb.nov.**

Basionym: *Scleria poklei* Wad.Khan in J. Econ.Taxon. Bot. 22(3): 559, t.2. 1998 [publ. 1999], as '*pokelii*'.

Type: India, Maharashtra, Gadchiroli district: Laheri road, *Wadoodkhan*4703 (Holotype: CAL-Acc. no. 4703-a!; *Isotype:* BSI-Acc. no.4703b-d!).

Note: *Diplacrum poklei* is endemic to Maharashtra, India.

Key to the species of *Diplacrum* in India

1. Glumes of nut bearing spikelets to expose the nuts 3-nerved, persistent on rachilla; nuts 0.4- 0.5 mm long, ellipsoid, deciduous alone, acute, glabrous. *D. africana*
- Glumes of nut bearing spikelets tightly clasping, many nerved, falling together with nut; nuts 0.7-1.0 mm long, subglobose or depressed globose, obtuse, pubescent at apex. 2
2. Glumes twice or more longer than the invested nut, spongy or cellularly thickened with in upper half; nuts ca. 1 mm long, densely hispidulous. *D. caricina*
- Glumes as long as invested nuts, cellular but not thickened with in upper half; nuts 0.7-0.8 mm, sparsely hispidulous at apex. *D. poklei*

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