

RESEARCH NOTES

(I)

NOTE ON A IMPERFECTLY KNOWN HIMALAYAN BAMBOO *SINARUNDINARIA ARUNACHALENSIS* AND IDENTITY OF *PLEIOBLASTUS SIMONII* IN ARUNACHAL HILLS

Majumdar (1989) on the basis of a collection made by Burkill No. 36550 from Bapu, Subansiri Arunachal Pradesh erected a species *Chimonocalamus longispiculatus* with a brief description "Plants unarmed. Leaves with setaceous apices. Spikelets green, many flowered in terminal panicles". However, Clayton and Renvoize (1986) treated *Chimonocalamus* Hsueh and Yi and *Sinarundinaria* Nakai as congeneric and used *Sinarundinaria* as the legitimate name. Transfer of epithet *longispiculatus* cannot be safely retained under *Sinarundinaria* as there is already a species named *Sinarundinaria longispiculata* Chao and Renvoize (1989) described from Mizoram, India. Hence, Naithani (1991) proposed a new name *Sinarundinaria arunachalensis* for *Chimonocalamus longispiculatus*.

Naithani and Bennet (1986) on the basis of collection Bennet and Naithani 3313 reported *Pleioblastus simonii* (Carr.) Nakai a native of China and Japan from Tale Valley from Arunachal Pradesh. A critical checking of the above mentioned collection revealed that it belong to *Sinarundinaria arunachalensis*.

In a visit in May 2012 to Arunachal Pradesh one of the author (HBN) has collected specimen of sporadic flowering of a bamboo from Tale Valley, Lower Subansiri district, Arunachal Pradesh. After a critical study through the literature these specimens were identified as *Sinarundinaria arunachalensis* Naithani. A detail description with photographs has been provided to facilitate its identification. Specimens are deposited in the herbarium of Forest Research Institute, Dehradun.

Sinarundinaria arunachalensis Naithani in *Indian Forester* 117 (1): 78, 1991; Seethalakshmi and Kumar, *Bamboo India comp.* 269. 1998. *Chimonocalamus longispiculatus* Majumdar in Karthikeyan *et al.*, *Fl. Ind. Enum.* Monocot 276. 1989. *Pleioblastus simonii* sensu Naithani and Bennet in *Indian Forester* 112(1): 85. 1986, non (Carr.) Nakai (1925) non *Bambusa simonii* Carr. (1866).

Local Names: *Yen* (Nishi) and *Hebing* (Apatani).

A bamboo 7m high; nodes prominent, raised; internodes deep green, 9-40 cm long, 5-6 cm in girth; branches 11-12 in number on upper nodes, each branch further branched, middle one thicker, about 8 mm in

girth, other two side branches slightly thinner than middle; rest all the branches thin; wall 2 mm thick. Culm sheaths upto 35 cm long, 9-12 cm broad at the base, brown, glabrous on the both surfaces, sheath proper attenuate upwards into upper half to truncate point below the imperfect blade bearing, straight or spiral stiff bristles at the apex; imperfect blade slightly curved, 5-6 cm long, upto 4 mm broad at the base, striate; ligule upto 2 mm broad. Leaves 6-14 cm long, 0.1-1.5 cm broad, lanceolate, glabrous, attenuate at oblique base into a short 5-6 mm long petiole, ending above in setaceous

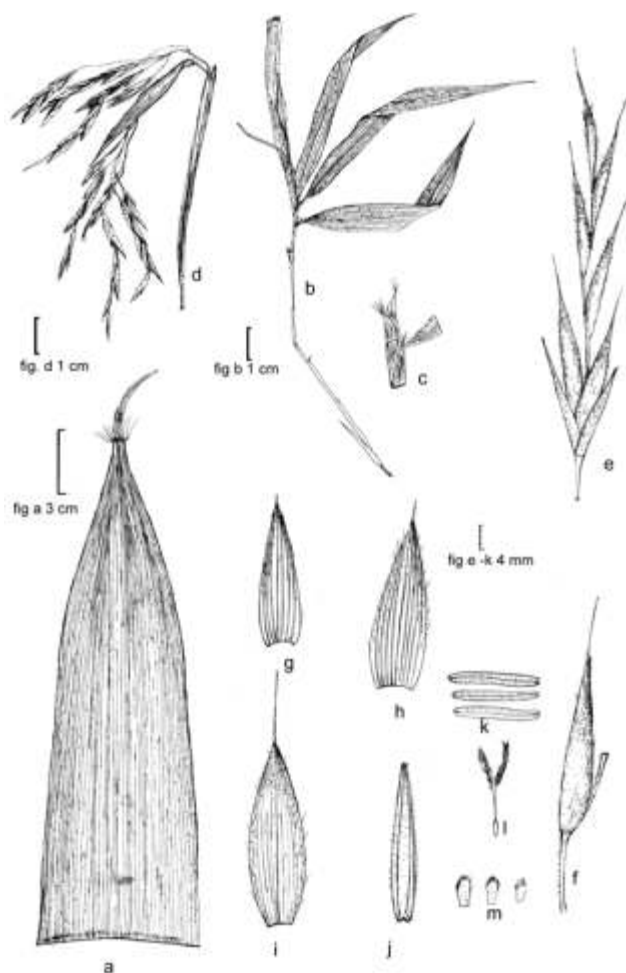


Plate - *Sinarundinaria arunachalensis* Naithani
Fig. - a. Culm sheath, b. Leaf, c. Inflorescence, d. Spikelet, e. Floret with rachilla, f. Palea, g. Lower glume, h. Upper glume, i. Lowest lemma, j. Palea, k. Anthers, l. Ovary, m. Lodicules.

Clump of *Sinarundinaria arunachalensis* NaithaniFlowering of *Sinarundinaria arunachalensis* Naithani

apex, scabrous serrate on the margins; main vein prominent, raised; secondary veins 4 each side of main vein; transverse veinlets numerous, conspicuous, raised, *sheath* striate, glabrous, bearing short auricles with stiff bristles; ligule prominent, blunt.

Spikelets upto 4 cm long, linear, 5-6 flowered, rachilla visible from the sides in intact spikelet, produced, upto 6 mm long, scabrous on the margins; florets 1.3 cm long, lanceolate; lower glume 10 mm long, lanceolate, mucronate, 7 nerved; mucro 1 mm long, scabrous; upper glume 12 mm long, lanceolate, surface

hairy on margin side; mucronate, 9 nerved; mucro 2 mm long, scabrous; lowest lemma 14 mm long, lanceolate, 11 nerved, mucronate, surface hairy on the margins otherwise minutely scabrous; mucro 6 mm long, scabrous; palea keeled, 2 nerved, keels scabrid; anthers 3, linear, 6 mm long brown in colour; lodicules 3, 1.1 mm long, hyaline fabriated at tip.

Specimen examined: Tale Valley, 2400m, Lower Subansiri District, Arunachal Pradesh, 12th May 2013, Naithani 5264 and 5265 (DD).

Distribution: Endemic to Arunachal Pradesh, India.

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H.B. NAITHANI AND MANISH K. KANDWAL¹
Botany Division
Forest Research Institute, Dehradun
(Uttarakhand)

¹Botanical Survey of India, Arunachal Pradesh
Regional Centre, Itanagar