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NOTE

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CAREX PHACOTA, SPRENG. (CYPERACEAE): A NEW RECORD FOR THE CENTRAL WESTERN GHATS OF KARNATAKA, INDIA

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The genus *Carex* L. of the family Cyperaceae is represented by 1,800–2,000 species. It has a cosmopolitan distribution at high altitudes of the temperate and tropical regions (Mabberley 2008). Hazra & Verma (1996) reported 62 species of *Carex* from Sikkim and the Darjeeling Himalaya. During a survey of grasses in Kudremuk National Park, Karnataka (13.169°E & 75.281°N) a species of *Carex* was collected and confirmed as *Carex phacota* by using the floristic literature. The genus *Carex* is characterized by a perennial rhizome, panicked spike, unisexual flowers rarely dioceses, glumes numerous, persistent and imbricate around the rachilla (Images 2 & 3). Unisexual spikelets with one or two male florets at the tip and remaining female florets in the inflorescence, shortly beaked utricles are the key characters of *Carex phacota* (Gamble, 1928). They usually grown on wetlands, stream sides or lakes; hence they are commonly called lakeshore sedge. It is distributed in southern and eastern Asia, Bhutan, Nepal, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, northern Thailand, and Vietnam (Chowdary 2016). In India it was first reported by Gamble

in 1928 at Nilgiri Hills, Tamil Nadu; later from Assam, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Sikkim, West Bengal and now Karnataka also. The herbarium is deposited in Central National Herbarium, Botanical survey of India, Howrah and also Herbaria, Department of Applied Botany, Kuvempu University, Shankaraghatta, Shivamogga, Karnataka (Image 4).

Flowering and Fruiting: November–March

Habitat and Ecology: Wet soil of grasslands, ditches, banks of streams and roadsides ditches at an altitude of up to 1,400m of shola (Image 1).

Specimens examined: KUABYLKS21, 21.i.2017, Gogudda, Kudremuk National Park, Chikkamagalore District, Karnataka, coll. H.U. Abhijit.

Carex phacota Spreng.,

F.B.I. vi.708. Syst. Veg. 3: 826. 1826; Hook.f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 708. 1894; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 1686(1169). 1931; Manilal, Fl. Silent Valley 338. 1988; Karthik. et al., Fl. Ind. Enum. Monocot. 40. 1989; Vajr., Fl. Palghat Dist. 542. 1990; Rejani, Cyperaceae. Kerala 101. 1991; C.D.K. Cook Aquat. Wetl. Pl. Ind. 99. 1995; Sasidh. et al., Bot. Stud. Med. Pl. Kerala 39. 1996; Sasidh., Fl. Shenduruny WLS 363. 1997; Swarup. et al., Shola For. Kerala 78. 1998; Sasidh., Fl. Periyar Tiger Reserve 484. 1998; Sasidh., Fl. Parambikulam WS 372. 2002; Mohanan & Sivad., Fl. Agasthyamala 772. 2002.

An erect, perennial herb with tufted culms 50–60 cm long, leafy mainly at the base. Leaves are slightly yellowish-brown in color size about 40x0.5 cm. Utricles



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Image 1. Habitat of *Carex phacota*, Spreng.



Image 2. Habit



Image 3. Inflorescence

not or very shortly beaked. Female glumes 2mm long with hispid awn, oblong or ovate, apex deeply emarginated, sides pale brown, midrib and awn green. Bracts long, upper filiform; spikelet's unisexual, one terminal male, rest female with some times a few male flowers at the tip,

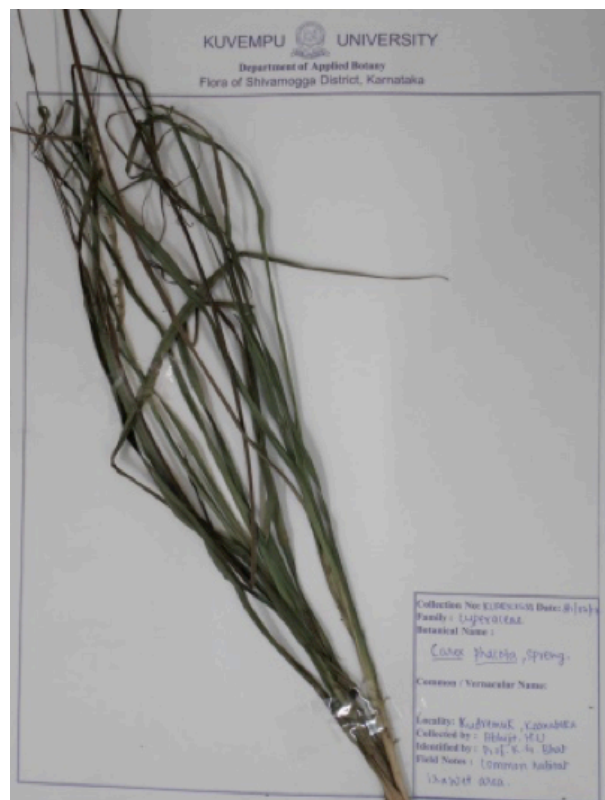


Image 4. Herbarium sheet of *Carex phacota*, Spreng.

linear- cylindric, 1–4.6 mm long, solitary, pedicelled, often drooping: stigmas 2; utricles biconvex, ovate or trapezoid, acute, hardly beaked, usually very shortly stipitate, brown with pale angles, faces covered with white papillae which turn chocolate or purplish-brown on drying (Gamble 1928; Prasad 2002)

Flowering and Fruiting: November–March

Habitat: Growing in swampy places or streams of Shola.

Specimens examined: KUABYLKS21, Gogudda, Kudremuk National Park, Chikkamagalore District, Karnataka, coll. H.U. Abhijit.

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