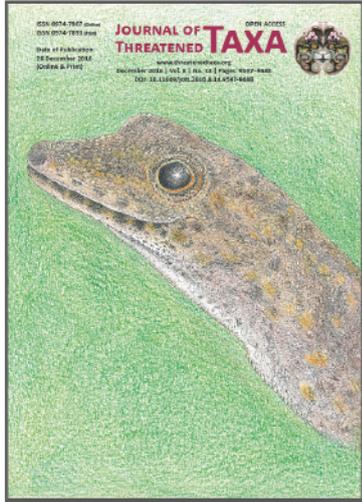


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NOTE

CAREX CAPILLARIS L. (CYPERACEAE) - A NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORD FOR INDIA

Animesh Maji & V.P. Prasad

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CAREX CAPILLARIS L. (CYPERACEAE) - A NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORD FOR INDIA

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Carex L. is the largest genus of the sedge family Cyperaceae and is one of the largest genera of flowering plants. There are 1,816 species of *Carex* (WCSP 2015) distributed throughout the world with the main centres of diversity in North America and eastern Africa (Starr et al. 1999). In India there are about 160 species, distributed mainly in the Himalaya (Maji & Prasad 2015). Haq et al. (2012) reported 40 species from the Himalayan state of Jammu & Kashmir.

While studying the old specimens of *Carex* in CAL, the authors came across a collection from Suru, Kashmir, identified as *Carex capillaris* L. A critical examination of the specimen and perusal of literature revealed that the identity is correct and the species has not yet been reported from India. Therefore, it is reported here as a new distribution record for the country. To facilitate easy identification a detailed description, illustrations and other relevant information are provided.

Materials and Methods: To confirm the identity and distribution of the species, relevant literature, viz., Clarke (1894), Kukkonen (2001), Lunkai et al. (2010), and Haq et al. (2012) have been consulted. A digital image of the type material at LINN was also procured ([\[online.org/10728/\]\(http://online.org/10728/\) - accessed on 13 July 2015\) for further confirmation. The herbarium specimens available at CAL, including the foreign ones have also been studied to prepare a detailed description and illustration.](http://linnean-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Carex capillaris L.

Sp. Pl. 2: 977. 1753 (as *capillari*);
P. W. Ball & Reznicek, Fl. North America 23: 476. 2002; Lunkai et al. in Z.Y. Wu et al., Fl. China 23: 364. 2010. Fig. 1

Type: No. 1100.57 (LINN, image!)

Perennial with short rhizome, 22–43 cm high. Rhizome ultimately woody, clothed with brownish bladeless sheaths. Culms tufted, slender, smooth, obtusely trigonous, enclosed by leaf sheaths at the base. Leaves much shorter than culm, linear, acuminate at apex, 10.5–23 cm long, c. 2 mm wide, scabrous on margins; lower ones reduced to bladeless sheaths; sheaths pale brown at base, ribbed, ultimately disintegrating into fibres. Inflorescence with 4–6 somewhat distantly arranged spikes. Involucral bracts foliaceous, sheathing, linear, shorter than subtending spike. Spikes unisexual, peduncled, the terminal one wholly male and all others females. Male spike erect, on a 7–10 mm long peduncle, oblong, 6–7 × 2.5–3 mm, brownish, many-flowered. Glumes membranous, oblong-ovate, obtuse at apex, c. 2.8×0.7 mm, with a prominent brownish mid-vein, hyaline at margins. Female spikes somewhat pendulous on a 17–22 mm long peduncle, cylindrical, oblong, 8–10 × 3–4 mm, 6–16 flowered. Glumes membranous, ovate, acute at apex, 2.1–2.3 × c. 1.5 mm, with a prominent green mid-



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Conflict of Interest: The authors declare no competing interests.

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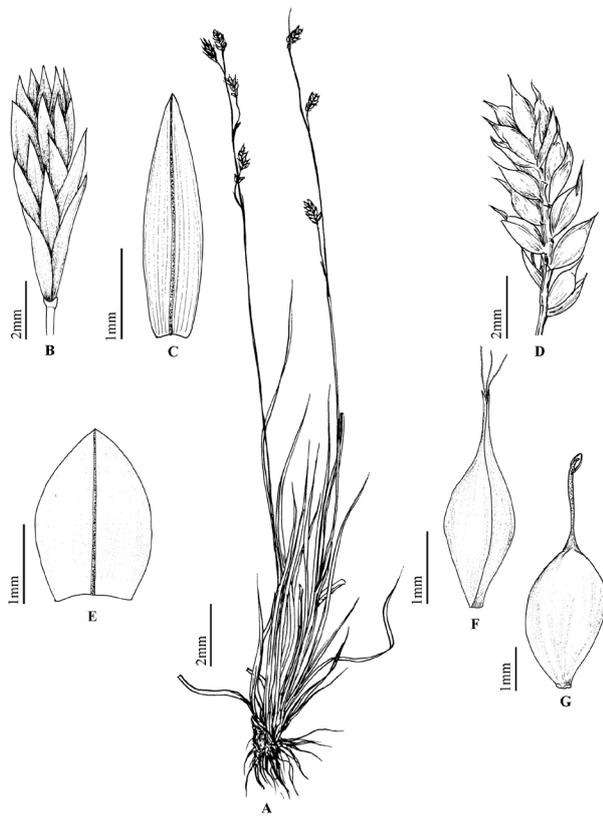


Figure 1. *Carex capillaris* L.
A - Habit; B - Male spike; C - Male glume; D - Female spike; E - Female glume; F - Utricle; G - Achene (A. Meebold 4631 CAL)

vein, hyaline at margins, brownish when dry, pubescent along the upper margins. Style c. 1 mm long; stigmas 3, protruding through apex of the utricle. Utricle obtusely trigonous, longer than glume, oblong-ovate, 3–3.2 × 0.8–1 mm, gradually narrowed into a 0.8–1 mm long beak at apex, nerveless except for 2 marginal veins, yellowish brown, glabrous. Achene trigonous, obovoid, c. 1.5 × 1 mm, brown.

Flowering & Fruiting: June–July.

Distribution: China, Japan, Korea, Russia, Europe, North America, India (reported here).

Specimens examined: India, Kashmir: Suru, 305m, July 1905, A. Meebold 4631 (CAL!). North America, Rocky Mountain, 1862, E. Hall & J.P. Harbour 613 (CAL!); Columbia Falls, 21.vii.1894, R.S. Williams s.n. (CAL!); Mossy Knolls, Fort Fairfield, 17.vii.1893, M.L. Fernald 140 (CAL!).

Conservation status: Data Deficient (DD) as per the IUCN categories (2012). The available information is inadequate to assess the risk factor, though the plant was found in a single locality. Therefore, more field work is required to determine the exact range of distribution and its population.

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