

## A NEW NAME IN CYMBOPOGON SPRENG.

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The late Dr. Stapf in Kew Bull. 303-313 (1906) devotes ten pages to an exhaustive discussion on the *Herba schoenanthi* of the ancients and its typification. He comes to the conclusion that Linnaeus based his *Andropogon schoenanthus* of the Species Plantarum (1753) on the *Lagurus* of his Materia Medica and on Plunkenet's *Herba schoenanthi*, indeed both of these are mentioned under this species in the Species Plantarum. If Stapf's arguments are accepted, and it is difficult to see how they can be contested, Plunkenet's specimen, *Herba schoenanthi*, still preserved in the British Museum, becomes the type of *Andropogon schoenanthus* despite the fact that the grass under this name in the Linnean Herbarium is a different species of *Cymbopogon* altogether.

Recently the study of the grass flora of Iraq involved the examination of specimens bearing this name, growing in neighbouring countries and in north, east and west Africa. The disconcerting discovery was made that the specimens of *Cymbopogon* "*schoenanthus*" from northwest India, Afghanistan and Iraq differed specifically from all the remaining specimens so called.

Stapf and every botanist concerned with *C. schoenanthus* have hitherto considered it to be uniform over this wide range, but this is not so. In Plunkenet's specimen in the British Museum the lowest pedicel in the sessile raceme is adnate to the adjacent joint, swollen and glossy. In the specimens collected in northwest India and Iraq the pedicel is neither swollen nor glossy. The former is the true *C. schoenanthus* (L.) Spreng.

An odd circumstance is that Stapf (in Prain, Fl. Trop. Afr. 9, 269: 1919) actually records this feature in *C. schoenanthus* while several years later, when describing a new species from India, *C. parkeri*, which he contrasts with *C. schoenanthus*, he mentions that it differs *inter alia* from that species, by the possession of a swollen lowest pedicel. This distinction is valid of course when the comparison is with Indian "*schoenanthus*" but not for Arabian and African "*schoenanthus*".

No specimens of true *C. schoenanthus* have been collected in Iraq, but as the species seems to be common in Arabia there can be no doubt that it will be found there sooner or later, particularly on the western boundaries.

While Indian "*schoenanthus*" is clearly distinct from African *C. schoenanthus* the question arises, is *C. parkeri* distinct from true *C. schoenanthus*. The answer to that question is, yes! In the former the basal sheaths are hairy, often lanate, the lower glume of the sessile spikelet more concave and filled with a scurfy deposit, and the racemes themselves are longer and broader; a plant, in short, with an altogether different facies.

It remains to decide what the Indian, Afghan and Iraqi species is to be called. The correct name and synonymy appear to be the following:

***Cymbopogon olivieri* (Boiss.) Bor, comb. nov.**

*Andropogon olivieri* Boiss., Diagn. sér. 1, 5, 76 (1844).

*A. arriani* Edgw. in Journ. Linn. Soc. Bot. 6, 208 (1862).

*Cymbopogon arriani* (Edgw.) Aitch., Cat. Punj. Pl. 174 (1869).

Type specimens of *Andropogon olivieri* (G) and *A. arriani* (K) have been seen. They agree with one another and with all specimens collected in India, Afghanistan and Iraq, formerly known as *Cymbopogon schoenanthus* (L.) Spreng.

Specimens seen are the following:

IRAQ. Mesopotamia, 1834, *Aucher-Eloy* (Type); Fl. Mesopot. etc., *Kotschy*, 1841; Kirkuk, 1867, *Hausknecht*; Khanaqin, iv. ii. 1929, *Rogers* 0412; Qara Tapa, 16.4.1932, *Guest* 1977; Kirkuk, 30.4.1933, *Guest* 4375; Ain Sifni (Mosul liwa), 10.6.1932, *Salim Effendi* 2565; Altun Kupri on Zab river, 8.7.1933, *Guest* 4024; Kani Domlan hills, Kirkuk, 30.4.1933, *Guest* 4346; Mosul, 15.5.1939, *Bayliss* 128; Mosul, 27.5.1948, *Gillett* 11170; Jarmo, 19.5.1955, *Helbaek* 1821; Jabal Hamrin, 3.5.1956, *Guest* 15553; Diana, 20.9.1956, *Guest* and *Husham* 15875; Jabal-al-Muwaila, 28.3.1959, *Guest*, *Rawi* and *Rechinger* 17605; Koma Sank Police Station, 2.6.57, *Ali al-Rawi* 20653. Type (G).

INDIA. All specimens mentioned in my paper on *Cymbopogon* in Journ. Bomb. Nat. Hist. Soc. 52, 181 (1954).

AFGHANISTAN. *Griffith* 365, 366, 6771; 1884, *Aitchison* 59; 1885, *idem* 762.

BALUCHISTAN. 1851, *Stocks* s.n.

WAZIRISTAN. 1895, *Harsukh* 15738.