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# Eriocaulon ansarii Pradeep & Sunil (Eriocaulaceae), a new species from India

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## ABSTRACT

PRADEEP, A. K. & C. N. SUNIL (2003). *Eriocaulon ansarii* Pradeep & Sunil (Eriocaulaceae), a new species from India. *Candollea* 58: 321-323. In English, English and French abstracts.

*Eriocaulon ansarii* Pradeep & Sunil (Eriocaulaceae), a new species from India, is described and illustrated.

## RÉSUMÉ

PRADEEP, A. K. & C. N. SUNIL (2003). *Eriocaulon ansarii* Pradeep & Sunil (Eriocaulaceae), une nouvelle espèce décrite d'Inde. *Candollea* 58: 321-323. En anglais, résumés anglais et français.

*Eriocaulon ansarii* Pradeep & Sunil (Eriocaulaceae), une nouvelle espèce d'Inde, est décrite et illustrée.

**KEY-WORDS:** ERIOCAULACEAE – *Eriocaulon* – Kerala – India.

The genus *Eriocaulon* L. has about 400 species distributed in the tropical and subtropical regions of both hemispheres (MABBERLEY, 1997), of which 65 species occur in India (ANSARI & BALAKRISHNAN, 1994). The authors, during their floristic investigations in South India, came across a remarkable undescribed species of the genus, very closely allied to, but distinct from *E. sollyanum* Royle. A detailed botanical description and illustration of the new species is provided below.

### *Eriocaulon ansarii* Pradeep & Sunil, **spec. nova** (Fig. 1)

**Type: INDIA:** Kerala, Trichur District, Kodungalloor, 45 m, 22.VIII.1999, *Sunil 2190* (Holo-: K; Iso-: CALI, BRIT, L).

*Eriocaulon sollyano affinis*, a quo imprimis differt habitu multo minore (4-5 cm), caudice crasso conico, pedunculis 1-5 cm longis, vaginis 5-10 mm longis, bracteis glabris, sepalis femineis non alatis et ecarinatis, petalis femineis ad mediam partem pilosis, non pilosis versus apicem, sepalis masculinis et femineis glabris.

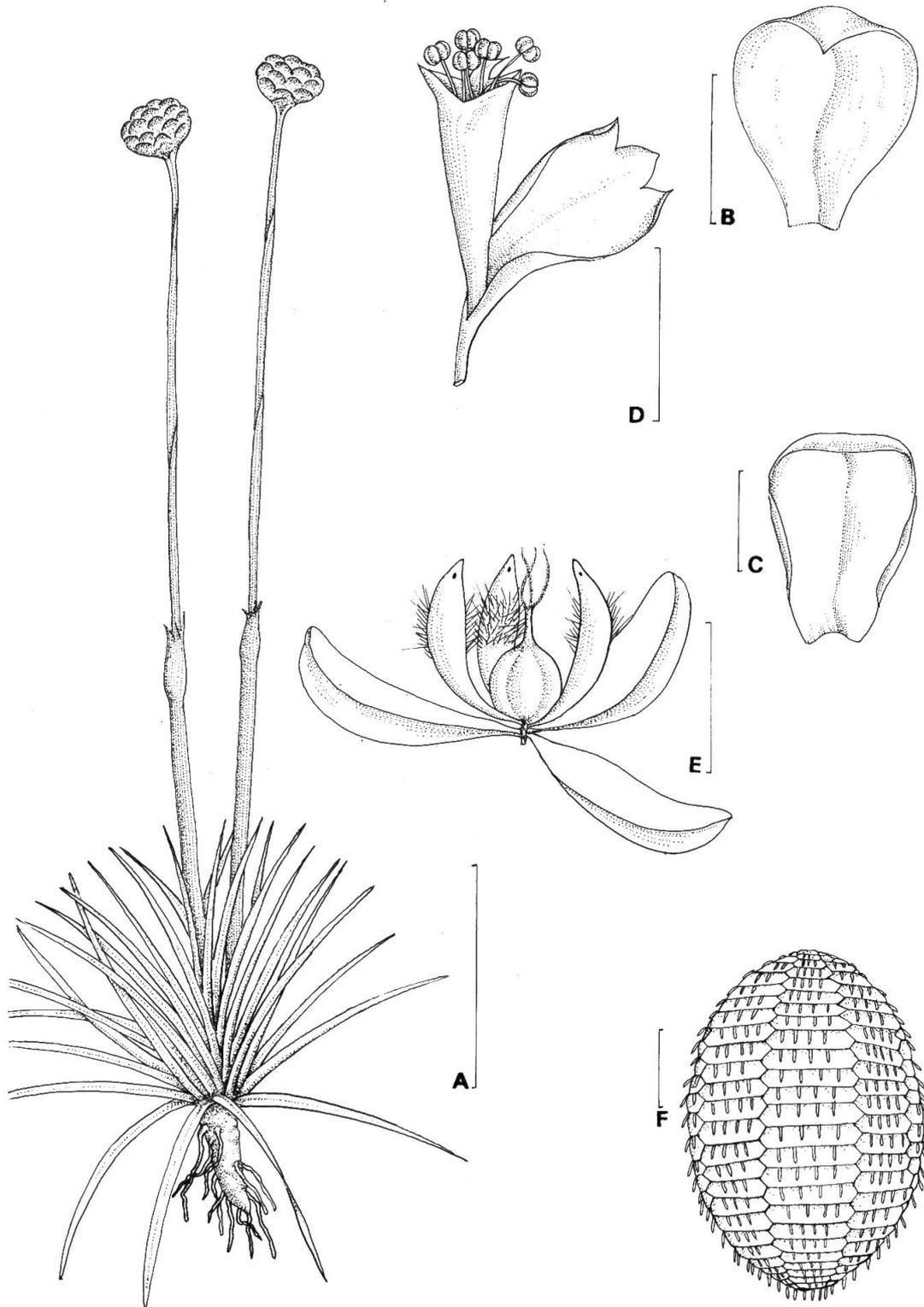


Fig. 1. – *Eriocaulon ansarii* Pradeep & Sunil. A. Habit; B. Involucral bract; C. Floral bract; D. Male flower; E. Female flower; F. Seed. [A-F, Sunil 2190] [Drawing V. B. Sajeev]

Measurements to scale bars: A – 1cm; B – 1 mm; C – 0.5 mm; D – 0.5 mm; E – 1 mm; F – 0.1 mm

Acaulescent herbs up to 5 cm high. Rootstock thick, conical, 8-12 mm long. Leaves rosulate, acicular, 3-10 mm long, glossy green, glabrous. Scapes 1-3, slender, 1.5-5 cm long, slightly twisted, 3-ribbed, glabrous; sheaths up to 1 cm long, striate. Capitulum c. 2 mm wide, hemispherical, black; receptacle ovoid, pilose; involucre bracts c. 1.5 × 1 mm, erect, oblong-obovate, obtuse or acute, glabrous, black; floral bracts c. 1 × 0.5 mm, obovate-cuneate, obtuse, glabrous, black; flowers trimerous, sessile. Male flowers: Sepals obovate-cuneate, connate into a spathe of c. 1 mm long, 3-lobed, the lobes obtuse, glabrous; stipe of corolla c. 0.5 mm long; petals 3, subequal, glabrous, without any black glands. Stamens 6; anthers globose, blackish. Female flowers: Sepals 3, free, subequal, oblong-lanceolate, concave, obtuse, not keeled, c. 1 mm long, glabrous, black; petals 3, hyaline, subequal, elliptic, not clawed, acute, c. 1 mm long, with or without a black gland in each, pilose with spreading hyaline hairs towards the middle inside. Ovary sessile, globose; style 3-fid. Seeds oblong-ellipsoid, c. 0.5 mm long, brownish; cells of the seed testa transversely elongated, appendaged, aligned in vertical rows; appendages 3-4 from the transverse radial walls, setiform, truncate at apex.

*Etymology.* – The species is named to honour Dr. R. Ansari (Malabar Botanical Garden, Calicut), who revised the family *Eriocaulaceae* in India.

*Distribution and habitat.* – *Eriocaulon ansarii* is known only from the type that was collected from the marshy fields at 45 m altitude.

*Affinities.* – *Eriocaulon ansarii* is related to *E. sollyanum*, but can readily be distinguished by its much smaller (4-5 cm) size, thick conical rootstock, 1-5 cm long scapes with 5-10 mm long sheaths as opposed to larger (9-20 cm) size, absence of rootstock, 15-20 cm long scapes with 4-6 cm long sheath in *E. sollyanum*. It also differs by its glabrous floral bracts, unwinged and keelless female sepals, female petals hairy in the middle, not hairy towards the tip, and glabrous male and female sepals.

ANSARI & BALAKRISHNAN (1994) consider *E. sollyanum* as a *nomen nudum*, and give the name for this species as *E. trilobum* Körn. Contrary to this statement, *E. sollyanum* is validly published on the coloured plate 97 of the work of Royle (ROYLE, III. Bot. Himal. Mts.: tab. 97, fig. 1. 1840) (STEARNS, 1943). This illustration with an analysis conforms to the Art. 42.3, 44.1 of the St Louis ICBN.

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