

Grimmia nepalensis Mitt. - J. Linn. Soc. Bot. Suppl. 1: 46. 1859.

Type: Nepal, east Nepal, 4800 m, leg. J.D. Hooker No. 248, holotype NY!

Synonyms: *Grimmia inflectens* Mitt.

Distribution: As.2,3

Description

Grimmia nepalensis forms caespitose, brown, small to robust patches, the leaves are erecto-patent to spreading, often with recurved tips and variously curled when dry, patent when moist, linear- to oblong-lanceolate, carinate, tapering to an acute apex, the costa is deep brown, percurrent, slightly projecting on dorsal side, the hair-points are very short to rather long, smooth, the margins are narrowly recurved on both sides. The distal areolation is bistratose, the mid-leaf cells are rectangular with conspicuous incrassate and nodulose walls, the basal marginal cells are rectangular with thin walls, the basal juxtacostal cells are rectangular with thin walls. The sexuality is autoicous, and capsules on arcuate to sigmoid seta are usually present, they are emergent to exserted, oblong-ovoid, smooth, the exothecial cells are thick-walled with 1-2 stomata at the base of the urn, the operculum is rostellate.

Discussion:

Grimmia nepalensis is a Himalayan endemic, characterized by carinate linear-lanceolate leaves, strongly crispate and curved when dry, margins recurved on both sides, upper leaf cells irregularly quadrate, mid-leaf cells rectangular with incrassate and nodulose walls, and basal cells elongate, somewhat hyaline, with thin and smooth walls. Larger plants from the same collection (Hooker nr. 248) were described as *G. inflectens* but Cao & Churchill (1995) found no significant differences and synonymized it with *G. nepalensis*. The species is very close to *G. fuscolutea*, which differs by loosely appressed to slightly curved ovate-lanceolate leaves with sinuosely-incrassate mid-leaf cells, capsules with thin-walled exothecial cells, and 4-8 stomata at the base of the urn.

Specimens examined

Nepal. orient region, alt. 14.500 ft., leg. J.D. Hooker nr. 248, BM;

References

Cao, T. & S.P. Churchill, 1995. New synonyms in *Grimmia* and *Schistidium* (Bryopsida: Grimmiaceae). Nova Hedwigia 60: 505-513.

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- Maier, E. 2002b. The genus *Grimmia* (Musci, Grimmiaceae) in the Himalaya.
Candollea 57: 143-238.