A NEW VARIETY OF COELACHNE R. BR. (POACEAE) FROM INDIA—
COELACHNE PERPUSILLA (ARN. EX STEUD.) THW. VAR.
NILAGIRICA VED PRAKASH ET JAIN VAR. NOV.

Varietati perpusillae affinis, sed differt
culmis latioribus, vaginis hirsutis, laminis
latiioribus, spiculis et ramis paniculae majori-
bus, et lemma paleaque superiore enervi eca-
rinataque.

Holotypus lectus a J. L. Ellis 34627 ad
dlocum Parthimund, Tamil Nadu, Nilgiri,
alt. 2300 m, die July 11, 1970 et Positus in
CAL. Isotypus positus in MH.

Perennial, densely tufted ca 15-30 cm tall,
ascending, with numerous slender fibrous
roots. Culms slender, terete; internodes up
to 3-5 cm long, faintly striate, glabrous;
nodes hirsute. Leaf-sheaths mostly shorter
than the internodes, terete, hirsute; ligules
0 (absent) or minute fringe of hairs; blades
1.0 - 3.5 cm long, 1.5 - 4.0 mm broad, linear-
lanceolate to lanceolate, acute, subrounded
at base, flat, striate and glabrous or scaber-
ulous above, hirsute beneath, nerves not or
slightly distinct beneath.

Inflorescence a panicle 3.5 - 8.0 cm long,
lax; axis subterete to channelled, slightly
flexuous, glabrous; branches up to 3 cm
long, distant, spreading, slender, sub-terete,
glabrous; pedicels (0) 0.5 - 7.0 mm long,
similar to branches. Spikelets ca 3.5 - 4.0
mm long, oblong to obovate-oblong or ovate-
oblong, gaping, 2-flowered, somewhat later-
lally compressed. Glumes 2, ovate-elliptic,
obtuse-apiculate, membranous (-hyaline),
glabrous; lower glume shorter, 1.7 - 2.0 mm
long, flatter, margins narrowly incurved, 1-3-
nerved (lateral nerves only near the base;
upper glume longer and broader, 2.3 - 2.5
mm long, rounded on back, margins widely
incurved, 7-nerved. Florets 2, exerted.

Lower floret + sub sessile, ± 3 mm long,
lanceolate, obtuse, glabrous; callus densely
bearded, hairs up to 1 mm long; lemma
ovate-elliptic, obtuse, folded, coriaceous,
nerveless (-1-nerved), glabrous; palea elip-
tic obtuse, margins widely incurved, groov-
ed on back, nerveless, glabrous; stamens
3; anthers ± 1.5 - 1.7 mm long, oblong;
filaments ± 0.2 - 0.5 mm long; ovary ±
0.5 mm long, ovoid; styles 2, 0.2 - 0.4 mm
long, distinct; stigmas ± 1 mm long, dis-
tinct, plumose. Upper floret ? stipitate,
± 2.5 mm long, lanceolate, obtuse, densely
bearded, hairs up to 0.5 mm long;

Type: INDIA: Tamil Nadu, Nilgiri
Dist., Parthimund, 2300 m, July 11, 1970,
J. L. Ellis 34627 (Holotype, CAL; Isotype,
MH).

This variety is allied to var. *perpusilla* but
differs in having broader culms, hirsute
sheaths, broader blades, larger spikelets and
panicle branches and nerveless and unkeel-
ed upper lemma and palea; whereas var.
*perpusilla* has capillary culms, glabrous
sheaths, mostly filiform blades, smaller
spikelets and panicle branches, and 2-ner-
v ed, 2-keeled and hairy upper lemma and
palea. In var. *perpusilla*, the lower glume
is 3-7-nerved but in this new variety lower
glume is 1 or 3 nerved and when 3-nerved,
lateral nerves present only in lower half.

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Coelachne prepusilla var. nilagirica Ved Prakash et Jain

12. Caryopsis. (J. L. Ellis 34627)