

New grass species spotted

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Finding published in IJAR, England

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KANNUR

A new species belonging to the grass family has been discovered from the laterite plateau of Kalliad and Blathur near Irikkur in the district.

Two researchers, P. Biju and E.J. Josekutty, who are doing their PhD at St. Thomas College, Pala, found the new species belonging to *Dimeria* R Br. The new grass species has been named *Dimeria kalliadense*.

Though it is similar to *Dimeria Keralae* in having intertwining racemes, oblique tip of the pedicel, long callus and callus hairs, upper glumes with round and echinate dorsal surface, it differs in having two sub-equal racemes, long pedicel, larger and distantly arranged spikelets, aristate upper glumes, acuminate lower glume, very long and hairy column of awns, lower lemma with dorsal keel and larger vinaceous anthers, a press note informed.

It is said that the new finding has been published in the latest issue of International Journal of Advanced Research (IJAR) published from England. It was also spotted from a few other places in Kannur and Kasa-



Dimeria kalliadense

ragod. The same researchers had earlier spotted another species in the grass family, *Isachne Bhattii*, in 2015. V.C. Balakrishnan, district coordinator of the Kerala State Biodiversity Board, said. The researchers found the specimen of *Dimeria* R Br during the floristic explorations in the laterite plateaus of northern Kerala.

He said that the spotting of the new species was an important botanical discovery as it highlighted the importance of the laterite plateau in the State.