

Cymbopogon citratus (DC.) Stapf



Habit: Herb

Morphology: A tall perennial grass with dense fascicles of leaves arising from a short, oblique annulate rhizome. Leaves with an aromatic(lemony) odour when crushed; blades linear, long-attenuated towards the base and tapering upwards to a long point, upto 90 cm long and 1.6-1.8 cm wide, very firm, glaucous green; midrib whitish on upper side, primary lateral nerves 4-6 on each side, raised above; ligules very short, rounded or truncate; sheaths 10-30 cm long, glabrous and smooth, cinnamon coloured or russet on the inside, those of the culms shorter than internodes, finely pubescent or velvety at the nodes. Flowers reddish, borne in loose panicles 30-60 cm long, sometimes larger, internodes c. 5-20 cm, decreasing in length from base to apex.

Taxonomy:

Kingdom	Plantae
Division	Angiospermae
Class	Liliopsida
Order	Poales
Family	Poaceae
Genus	Cymbopogon
Species	<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i> (DC.) Stapf

Uses: The leaves of *Cymbopogon citratus* have been used in traditional medicine and are often found in herbal supplements and teas. Evidence of effective *Cymbopogon citratus* essential oil anti-protozoa activity against *Leishmania amazonensis*.

Reference: Indiabiodiversity.org