

LARGEST FAMILY IN THE FLORA OF ETAWAH DISTRICT (U.P.) INDIA- POACEAE (GRAMINEAE)

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The Flora of Etawah district have 102 families of Angiosperms. Among these families Poaceae (Gramineae) is the largest family. Poaceae have 44 genera and 72 species. In this family, *Echnachloa crusgalli* (L.) Beauv. and *Sporobolus diander* (Retz.) Beauv. are rare species in the Flora of Upper Gangetic plains. This paper describes the generic key of family Poaceae (Gramineae).

Keywords :Flora Etawah,; Generic key; Poaceae.

1. +Tall shrubs or trees; leaves usually with a petiole-like base, articulated with the sheath..... *Bambusa*
-Herbs of shrubs of moderate size, not articulated with sheath.. 2
2. +Spikelets unisexual; female spikelets solitary at the base of inflorescence and enclosed in stony polished utricle like branch..... *Coix*
-Spikelets bisexual, neither solitary, nor enclosed in utricle like bract..... 3
3. +Inflorescence feathery (spikelets covered with silky, non-bristly hairs).. 4
-Inflorescence not feathery (spikelets not covered with silky, non-bristly haris).. 6
4. +Rachis tough continuous; inflorescence short contorted, cylindrical panicle stamen solitary long exerted..... *Imperata*
-Ranchis fragile, articulate, inflorescence larger open panicle. Stamens 3 (sometimes 2 in lower floret in *Phragmites*) not long exerted..... 5
5. +Stem hollow, Spikelets not copiously hairy. Hairs arising from callus....*Phragmites*
-Stem not hollow filled with pith in the centre. Spikelets copiously hairy throughout. *Saccharum*
6. +Stamens 6. Glumes wanting or with only glume like lemmas..... *Oryza*
-Stamens 1-3. Glumes distinct..... 7
7. + Inflorescence interrupted by spanthe, i.e. each group of spikelets subtended by one spathe..... 8
- Inflorescence not interrupted by spathe, however, the whole inflorescence may be subtended by spathe..... 9
8. +Spikelets 3-nate..... *Apluda*
-Spikelets 4-nate..... *Iseilema*
9. +Spikelets consist of 2 floret, the lower staminate or neuter, the upper perfect and usually dorsally compressed; at maturity falling off entire together with glumes... 10

- Spikelet of 1-many florets; if consisting of 2 florets, the lower perfect spikelets terete or laterally compressed... 24
10. +Upper lemma and palea coriaceous, thicker than glumes..... 11
 -Upper lemma and palea membranous thinner than glumes..... 22
11. +Spikelets bristly at base. Inflorescence contracted, cylindrical panicle.... 12
 -Spikelets not bristly at base. Inflorescence not a contracted cylindrical panicle.. 13
12. +Bristles united at base into a sping bur enclosing group of spikelets.. *Cenchrus*
 -Bristles 1-several, but free... *Setaria*
13. +Inflorescence of digitate or racemosely arranged secund branches with sessile or short-stalked spikelets... 14
 -Inflorescence a loose open panicle; spikelets stalked not secund receme... *Panicum*
14. +Lower glume and lower lemma with their back facing to the floral axix... 15
 -Upper glume and upper lemma with their back facing to the floral axis..... 16
15. +Base of spikelets thickened into a callus; lower glume wanting... ..*Eriochloa*
 -Base of spikelet not thickened into a callus; lower glume distinct.. *Brachiaria*
16. +Lemma of upper thinly cartilagenous and with flat, hyaline margins, covering major portion of palea.... 17
 -Lemma of upper floret + coriaceous, margins involute, thus exposing much of palea.. 18
17. +Spikelets awned *Alloteropsis*
 -Spikelets awanless. *Digitaria*
18. + Lower glume present.. 19
 -Lower glume absent... *Paspalum*
19. +Lower glume and lower lemma acute, mucronate or sometimes very shortly awned. Upper lemma transversely rugose.. 20
 -Lower glume and lower lemma acuminate or awned & upper lemma smooth.. 21
20. +Raceme± appressed with inflorescence axis, atleast when young, upper lemma acute.. *Paspilidium*
 -Raceme erectopatent. Upper lemma mucronate or very shortly awned.. *Urochloa*
21. +Blade lanceolate to broadly ovate. Culms partly creeping.. *Oplismenus*
 -Blade linear. Culms erect or suberect.. *Echinochloa*

22. +Joints of the rachis and pedicel slender, if swollen, only at the top.. 23
 -Joints of the rachis and pedicel swollen, 3-angled, rounded or flattened.. 28
23. +Inflorescence a panicle. Pedicels with translucent longitudinal groove... 24
 - Inflorescence with a simple or digitate raceme. Pedicels not grooved... 25
24. +Spikelets laterally compressed; callus obliquely elongated, sharply pointed; lower glume concave.. *Vetiveria*
 - Spikelets dorsally compressed; callus not elongated; lower glume flat... *Sorghum*
25. +Lower glume of lower spikelet 2-keeled or grooved. Callus rounded.. 26
 -Lower glume of lower spikelet cylindrical, neither keeled nor grooved. Callus ± elongated and sharply pointed.... *Heteropogon*
26. +Spikelets in a solitary raceme; sessile spikelets not overlapping each other.... *Eremopogon*
 -Spikelets in panicle or digitate racemes, rarely single, if single, sessile spikelet overlapping each other.... 27
27. +Lower glume of lower spikelet lanceolate or acute. Pedicel with a translucent longitudinal groove.... *Bothriochloa*
 -Lower glume of lower spikelet obtuse, or rounded. Pedicel evenly thickened, not grooved.. *Dichanthium*
28. +Joints of the rachis and pedicels eiliate. Upper lemma awned.. *Ischaemum*
 -Joints of the rachis and pedicels glabrous. Upper lemma awanless.. *Hemarthria*
29. +Lemma faintly 1-3- nerved. Spikelets compressed. Blade base with long hairs.. 30
 -Lemma 5-many-nerved. Spikelets terete. Blade base devoid of long hairs.. 42
30. +Spikelets with 1 fertile floret.. 31
 -Spikelets with 2-many fertile florets.. 35
31. +Glumes coriaceous usually longer than lemma.. 32
 -Glume thinner or lemma like in length.. 33
32. +Upper and lower glumes equal and awned. Peduncle weak and slender. Raceme purplish-violet.. *Perotis*
 -Upper glume awnless; lower very small or lacking. Peduncle short. Raceme not purplish-violet... *Tragus*
33. +Inflorescence a contorted panicle... *Sporobolus*

- Inflorescence a digitate raceme or terminal spike.. 34
34. +Spikelet with 1 or more imperfect flowers, awned... *Chloris*
 -Spikelets without imperfect flowers awnless.. *Cynodon*
35. +Spikelets awned... 36
 -Spikelets awnless... 37
36. +Spikelets 2-flowered, arranged in many spaced clusters.. *Melanocenchris*
 -Spikelets 2-more flowered close set, in solitary spike.. *Tetrapogon*
37. +Spikelets usually more than 3.5 mm long. Lemma tip entire acute or shortly aned. 38
 -Spikelets not exceeding 2.5mm. Lemma truncate or notched at apex.. *Leptochloa*
38. +Spikelets in open contorted panicles.. *Eragrostis*
 -Spikelets sessile or sessile, in digitate or racemosely arranged.. 39
39. +Axes of spikes terminating into sharp point.. *Dactyloctenium*
 -Axes of spikes terminating in spikelets.. 40
40. +Spikes or raceme many, alternately arranged in narrow panicle.. *Desmostachya*
 -Spikes atleast top one digitately arranged.... 41
41. +Spikelets 3-6 flowered.. *Eleusine*
 -Spikelets 8-10-flowered... *Acrachne*
42. +Lemma coriaceous, veins indistinct; awn 3-fid. Sheath margin free.. *Aristida*
 -Lemma not coriaceous, veins distinct or absent or simple sheath margin adnate, atleast at basal part... 43
43. +Spikelets with 3-floret, the two flower reduce to scale. Glumes awnless. Inflorescence uninterrupted, not silky.. *Phalaris*
 -Spikelets with 1-floret glumes awned. Inflorescence lobulate silky.. *Polypogon*

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