S.I.G. = Some South Indian Grasses Ranga Acharyer.
F. = Flora of the South Indian Hill Stations. Fyson.

T. = Stems all arising from one root-tuft.
C. = Stems creeping, rooting at the nodes.

GRASSES

of

Dohnavur, Foothills and Naraikkadu.

Sing praise unto our God... who maketh
grass to grow upon the mountains.
Ps. 147: 7, 8.

If God so clothe the grass of the field,
shall He not much more cloth you?
Matt. 6: 30.

September 1943

C. Webb-Peploe.

2

IMPERATA ARUNDINACEA.

silky white hairs.

purple stigmas, 2 stamens with orange anthers.

2 feet upright in Narakkadu
less in the plains.

S.I.G. 147

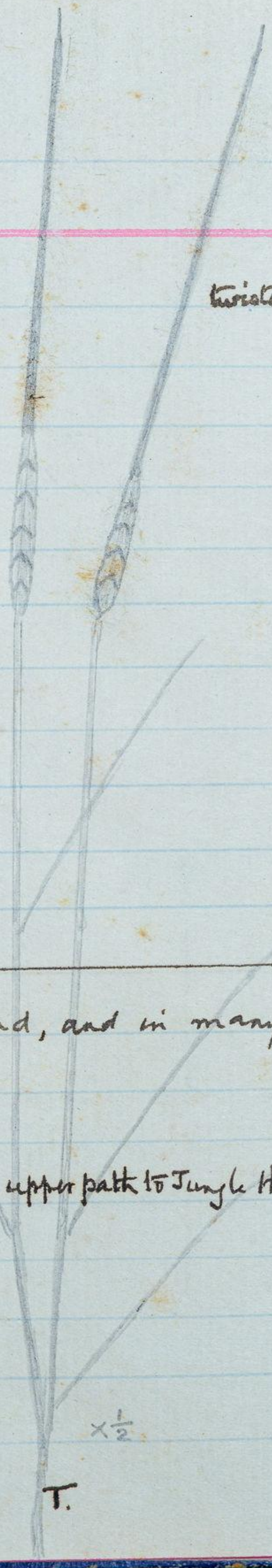
D In paddy lands, on the bunds between fields.

N Here and there in Amma's Garden

HETEROPOGON CONTORTUS

Spear-Grass.

twisted black awns



D | Common in the Compound, and in many uncultivated fields.

N | So-called Pineapple Patch where upper path to Jungle House joins main path.

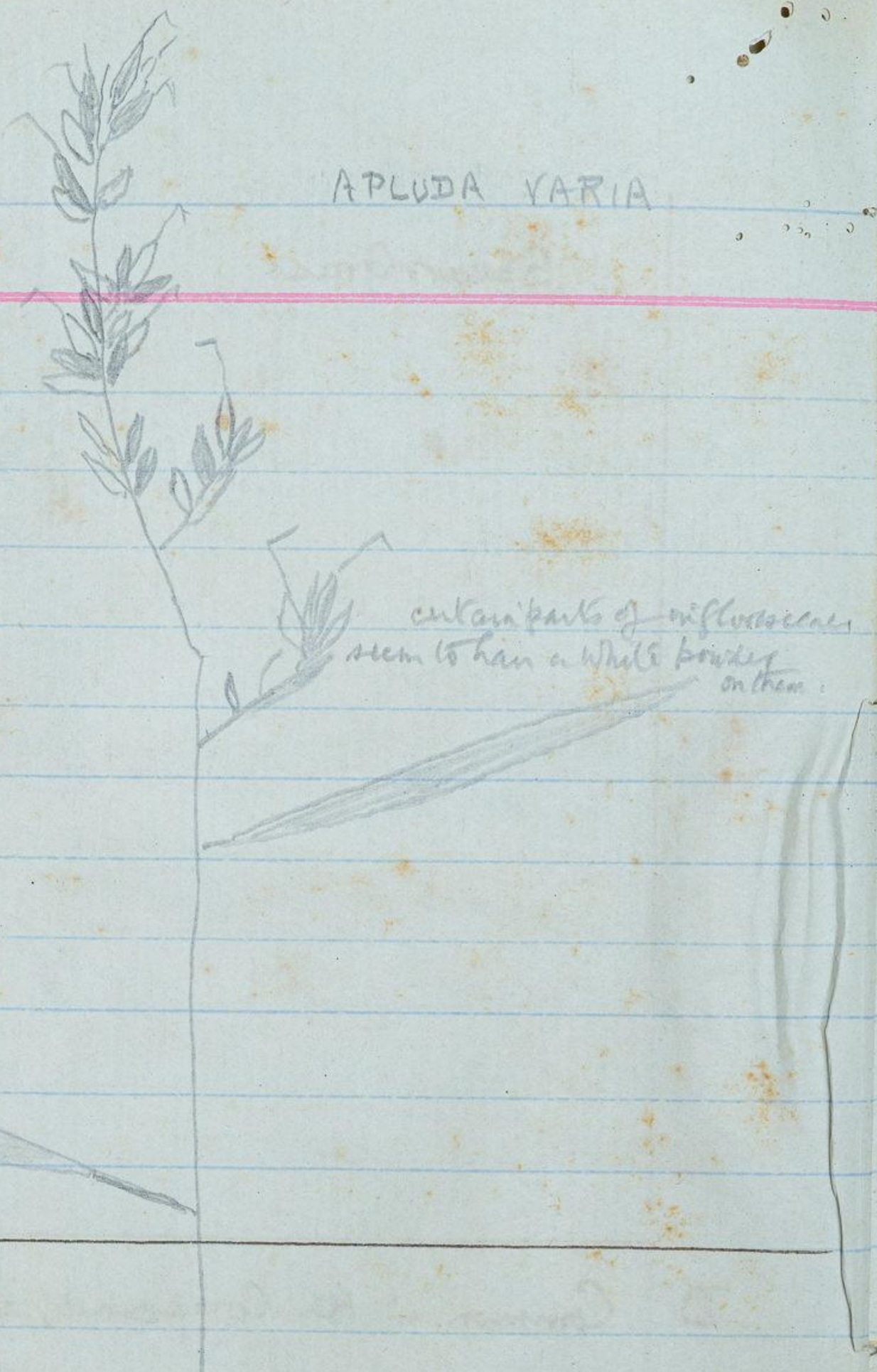
M

×½

T.

4

APLUDA VARIA



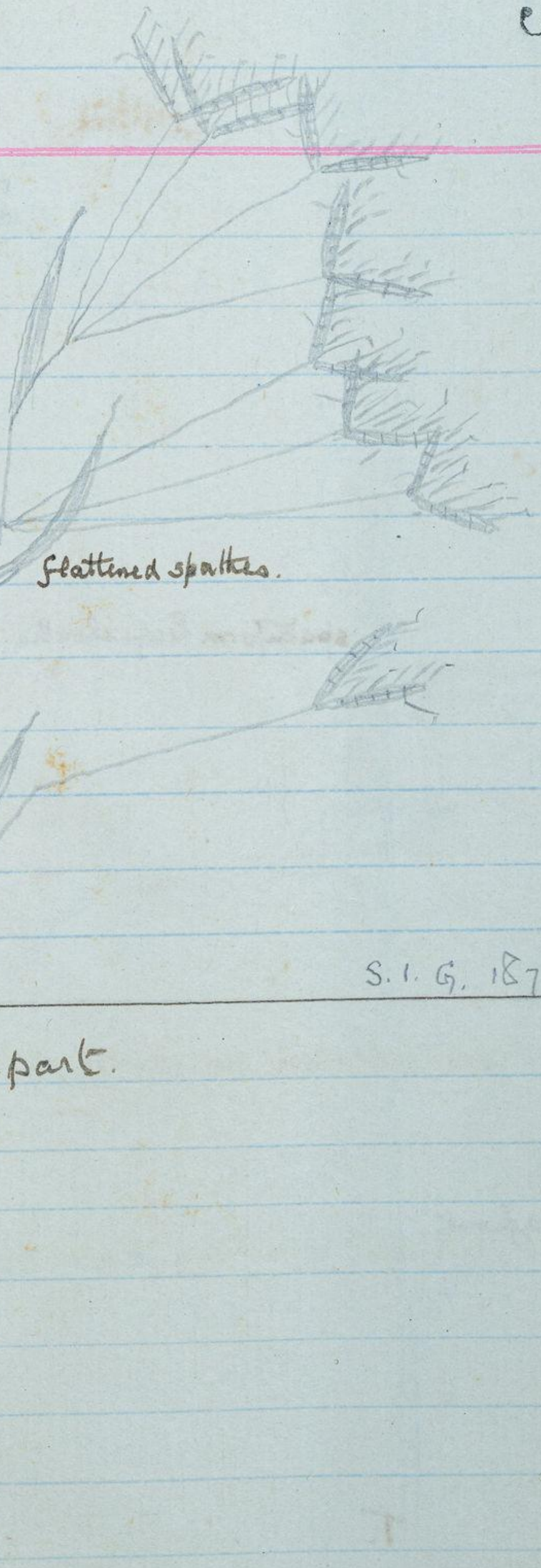
certain parts of inflorescence seem to have a white border on them.

D

N

3 feet high here and there by paths in grass patches

ANDROPOGON PUMULIS



flattened spathes.

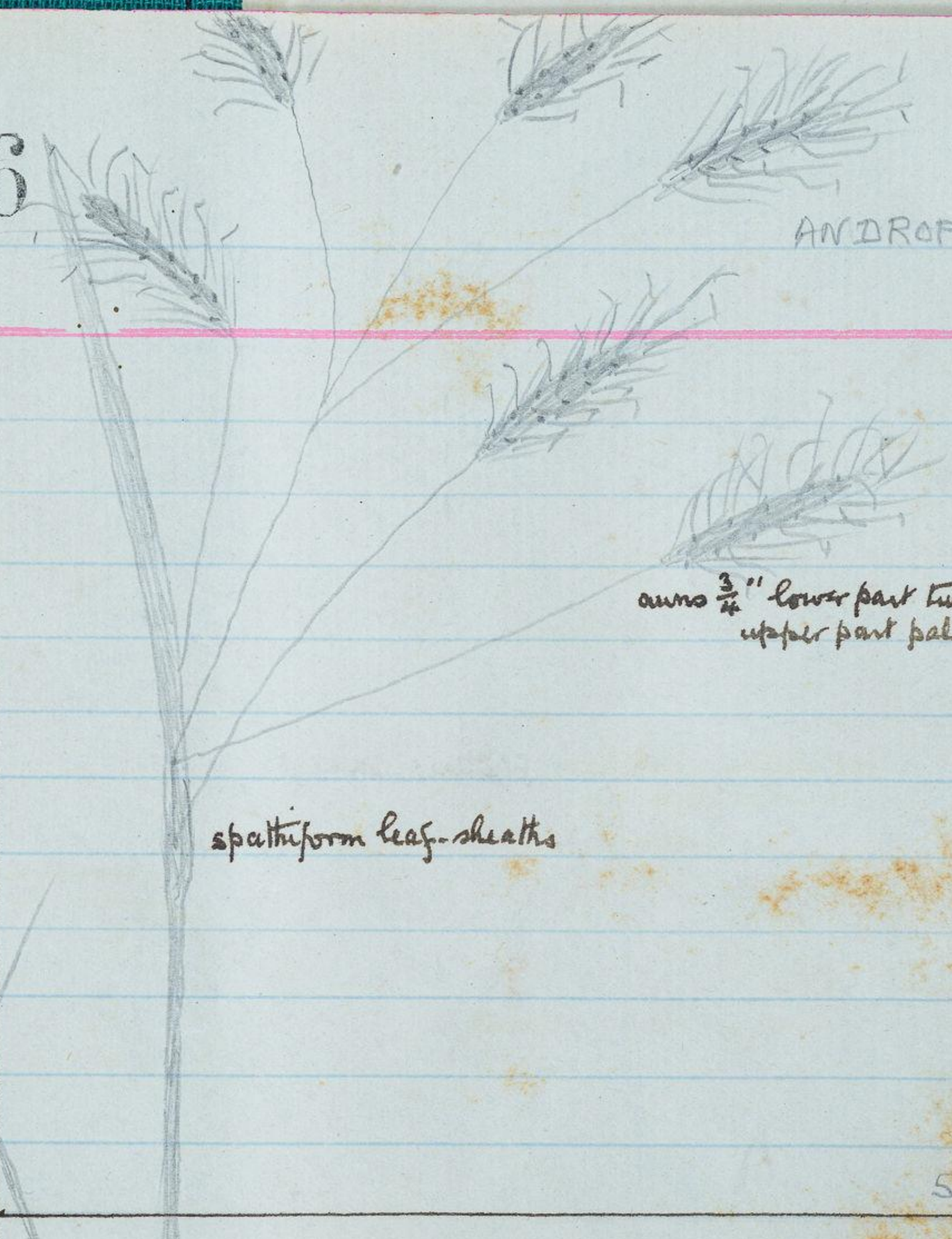
S. I. G. 187, 188.

D In our Thevar's Land, N. part.

T.

6

ANDROPOGON FOVEOLATUS



awns $\frac{3}{4}$" lower part twisted and dark
upper part pale.

spathiform leaf-sheaths

S.I.G. 184, 185

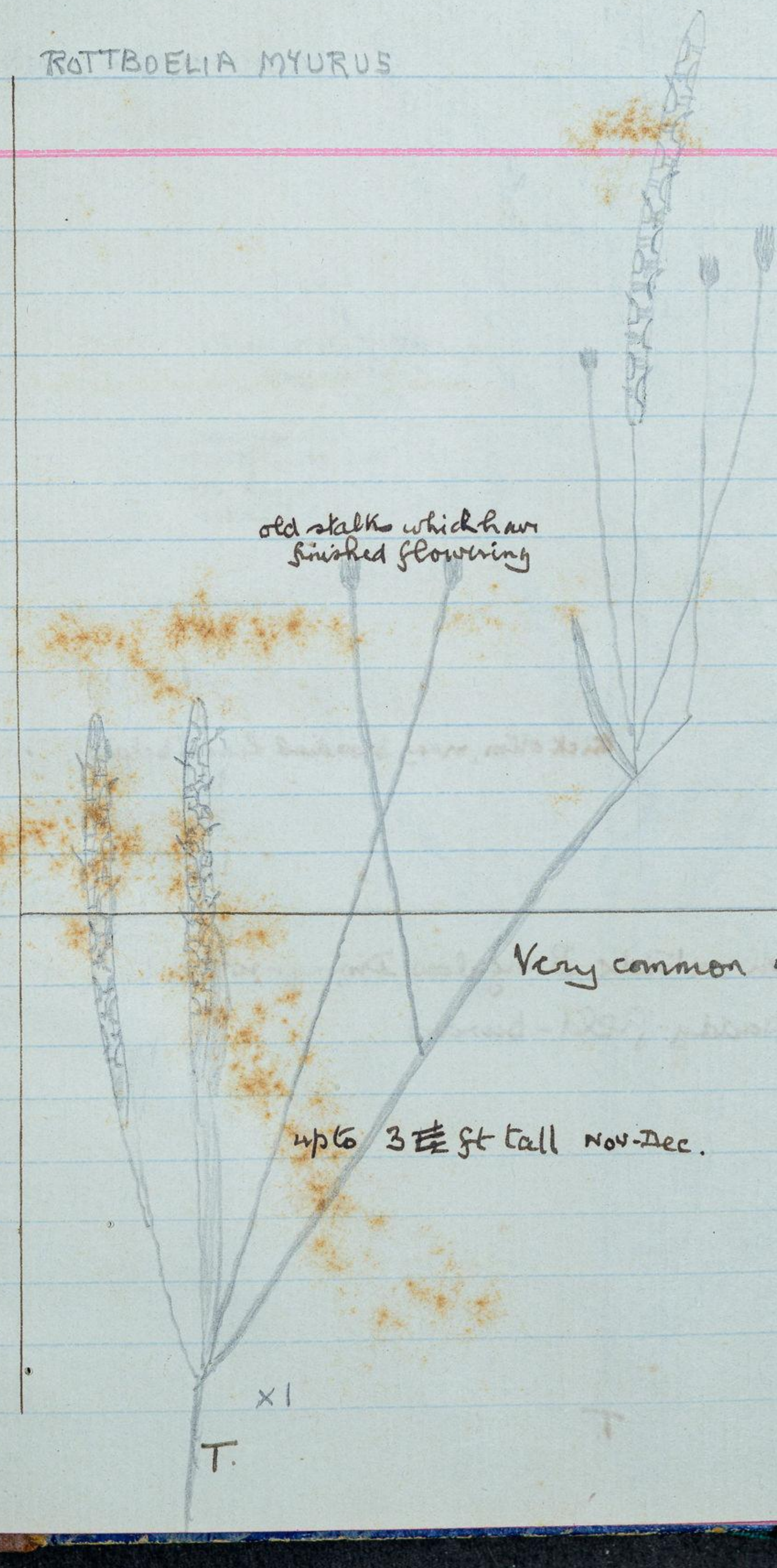
D

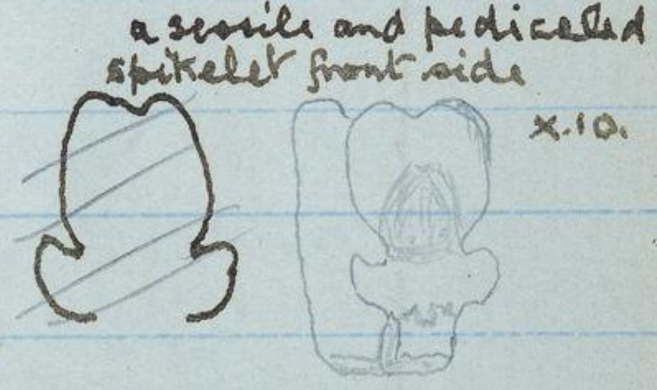
Leaf blade
very narrow,
scabrid throughout.

T.

7

ROTTBOELIA MYURUS





S.1-G. 174

D

Very common in the Compound.

up to 3½ ft tall Nov-Dec.

M.

8

PANICUM (REPENS?)

Thick stem, many broadish leaves below

S.I.G. 98,99

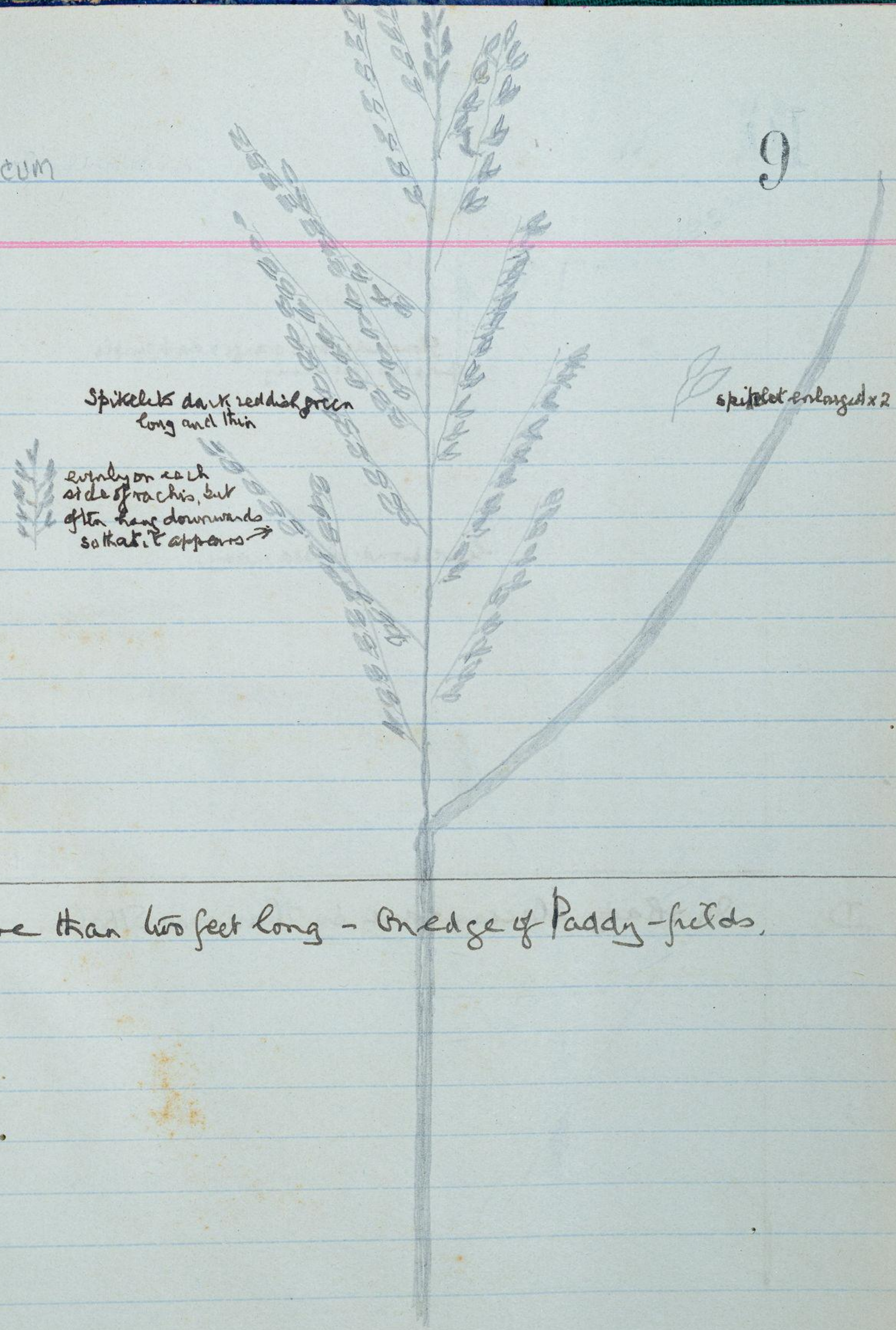
D

On grass lawn outside Bungalow Dining-room.
Common on paddy-field-bunds

T.

PANICUM

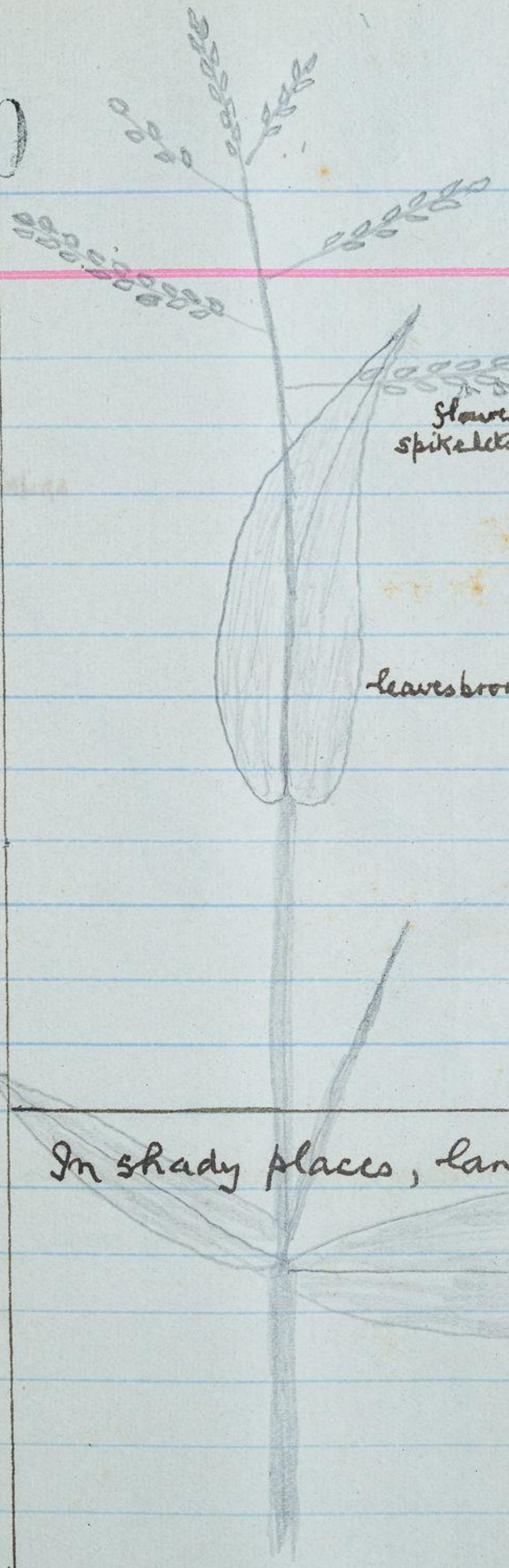
9



D more than two feet long - Bredge of Paddy-fields.

10

Panicum prostratum



flowering parts orange & dark purple
spikelets fall easily.

leaves broad-bladed, many.

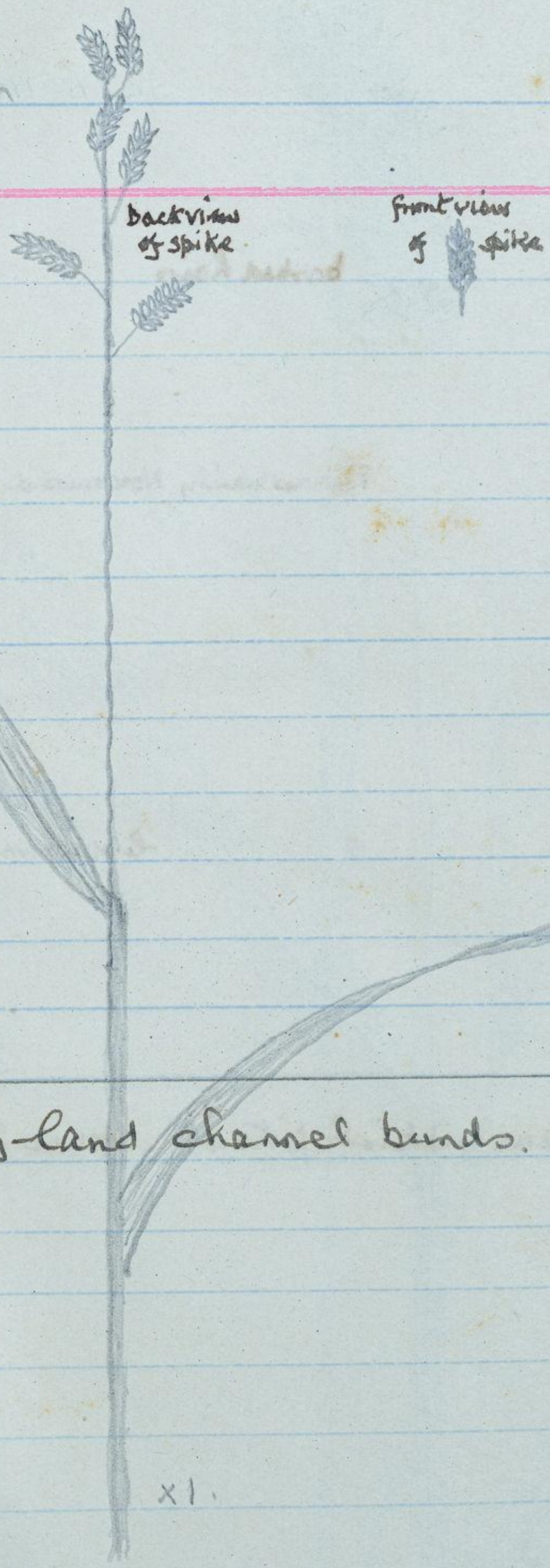
S. I. G. 82, 83

D

In shady places, lane by Tharisana Sthala.

?M

Panicum colonum



S.I.G. 79, 80

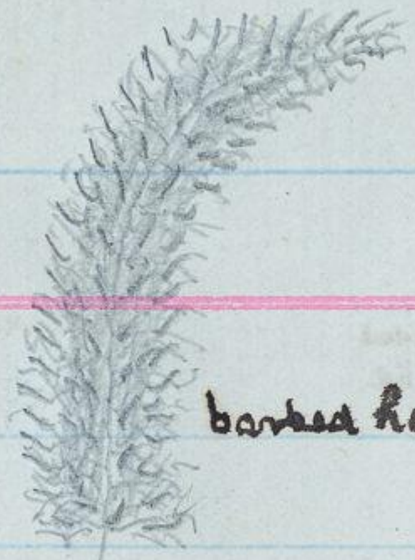
D On paddy-land channel bunds.

N?

x1.

12

SETARIA VERTICILLATA



Barbed hairs

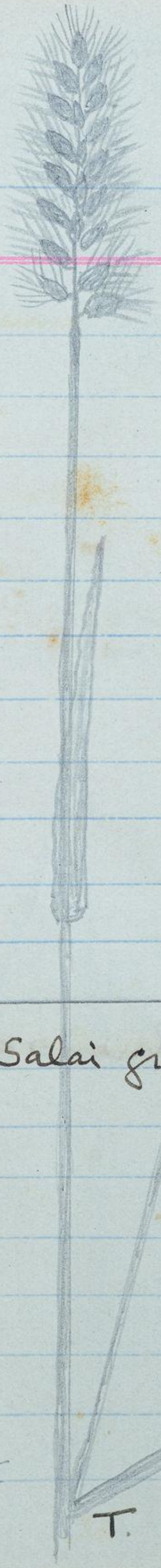
Flowers mainly Nov onwards.

Luxuriant green foliage.

S.I.G. 112, 113.

D. In rich soils, near rubbish pits etc. Aruna Sitkala Rubbish Pit.

PENNISETUM CENCHROIDES



S.I.G 117, 118

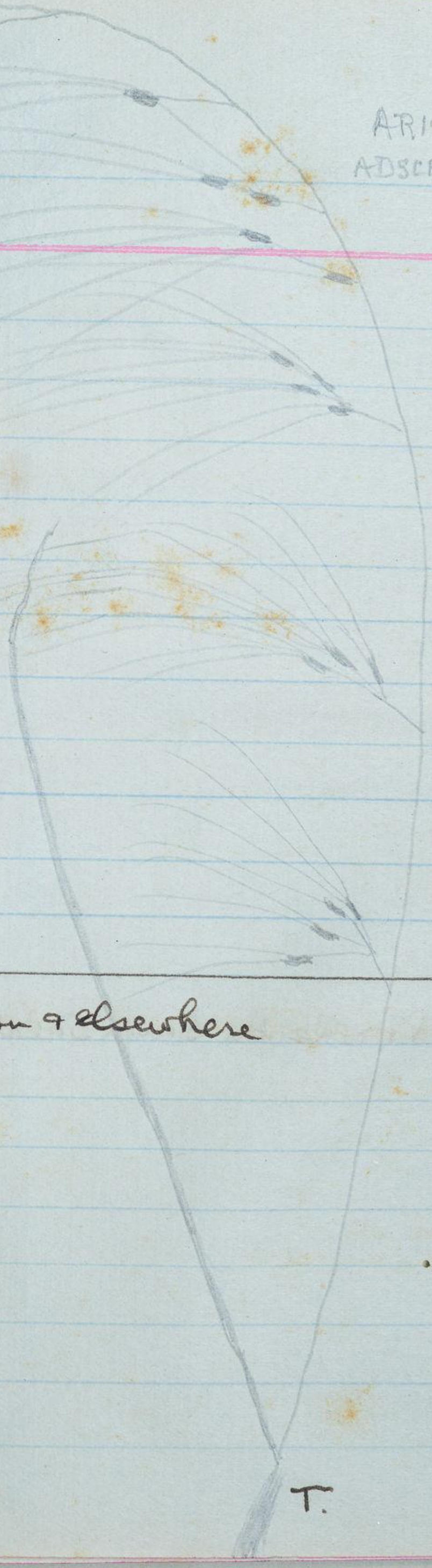
D In Vanachanbu Suria Salai grass plot and north of school.

$\times \frac{1}{2}$

T.

14

ARISTIDA
ADSCENSCIONIS



S.L.G. 223

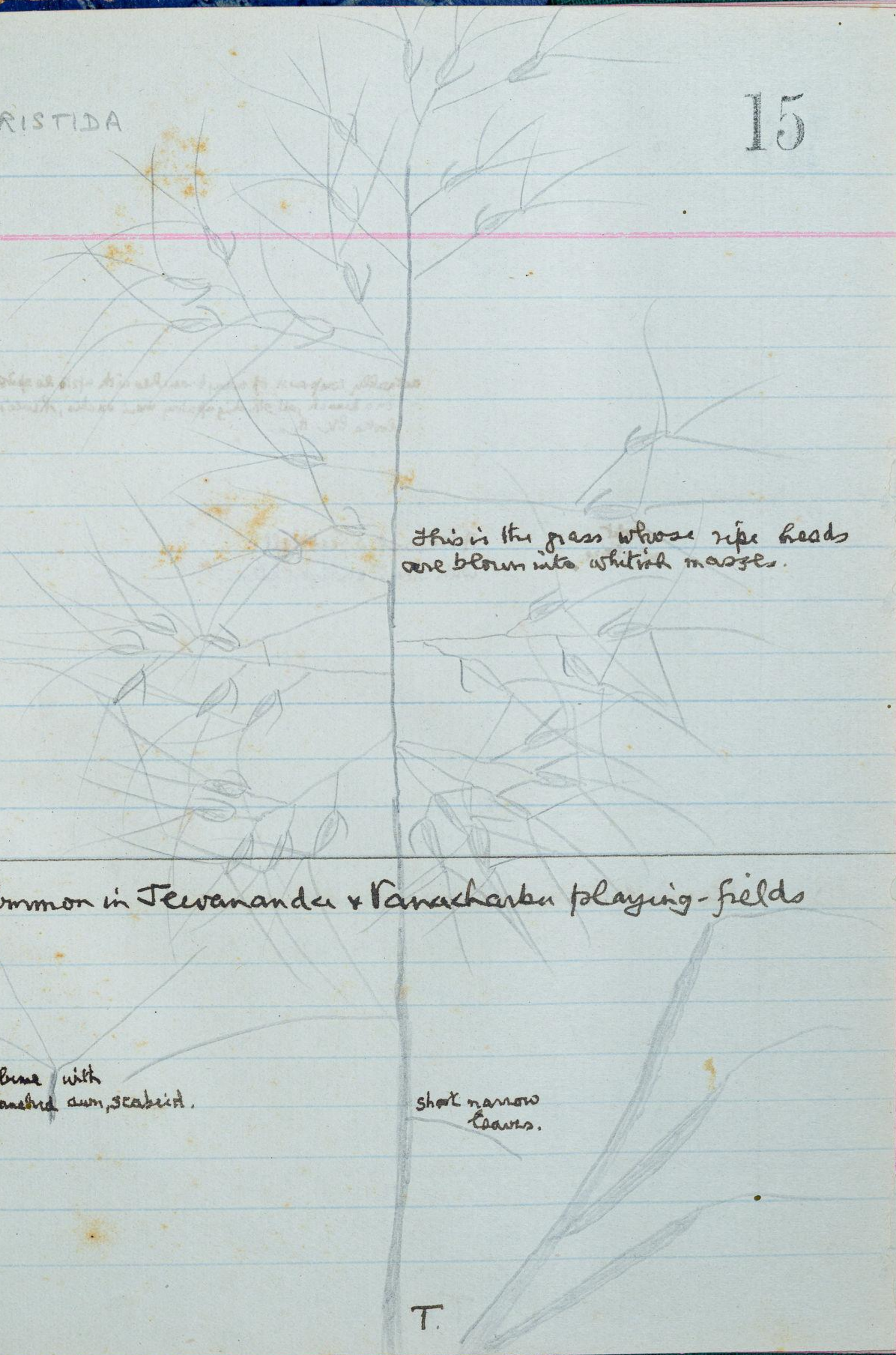
D Common in Vaca Charbon & elsewhere

M

T.

ARISTIDA

15



This is the grass whose ripe heads are blown into whitish masses.

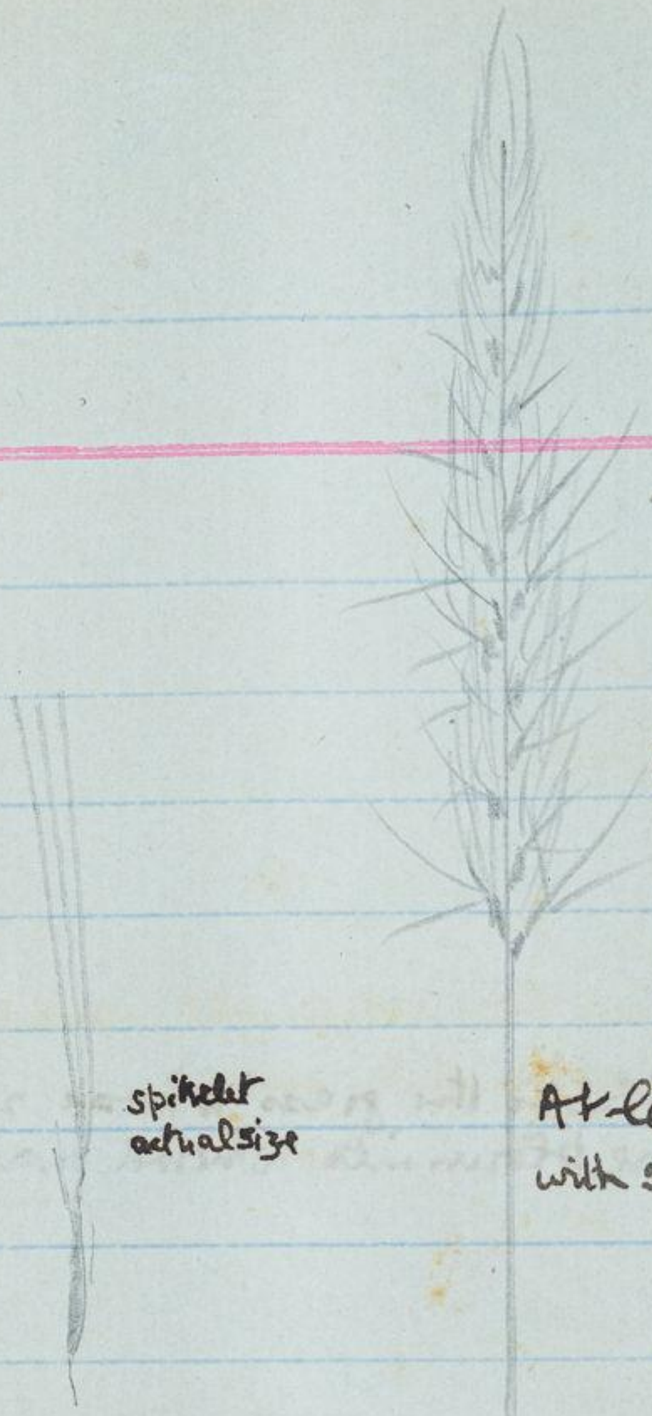
D Common in Jeevanandam & Ramacharlu playing-fields

M Third glume with three-branched awn, scabrid. short narrow leaves.

T.

16

ARISTIDA ? SETACEA



actually composed of many branches with upto 20 spikelets on a branch, all standing up along main rachis, hence it looks like this.

spikelet actual size

At least 3 feet tall with stout straight stem.

S. I. G. 225

D Here and there in Vanacharla

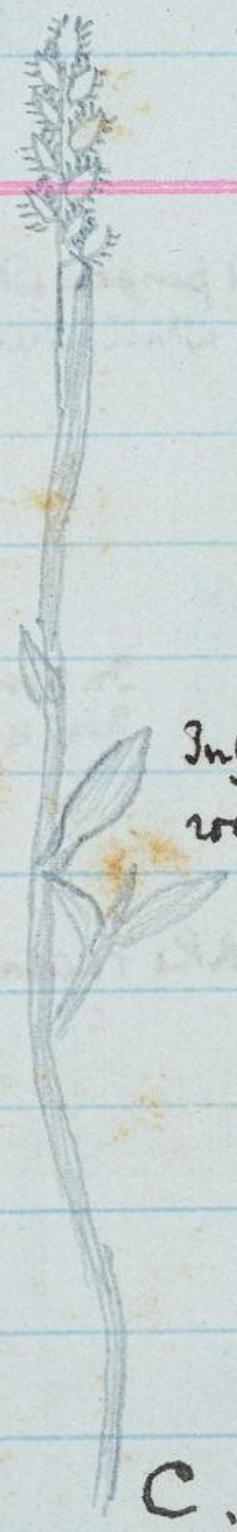
N. In front of F.H.

M

× 1/4

T.

TRAGUS RACEMOSUS



Inflorescence flat, not upright, spreading from central rootstock, rooting at the nodes.

C. S.1.G. 132, 133

D. N side of main private PSS road, opposite Mrs-P's house.
S. side of Uppaikai, close to steps.

18

PEROTIS (LATIFOLIA)

Head purple when young,
white when old

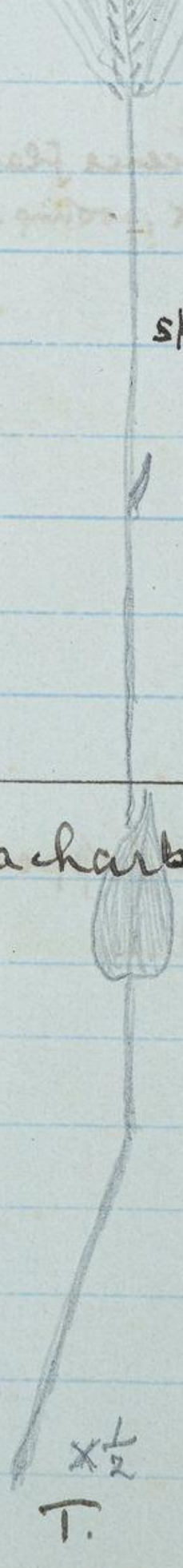
In spikelet each of the
first 2 glumes has a long awn

spike-like racème up to 16" long.

S.I.G. 136, 137

D. Common in Vanacharbu.

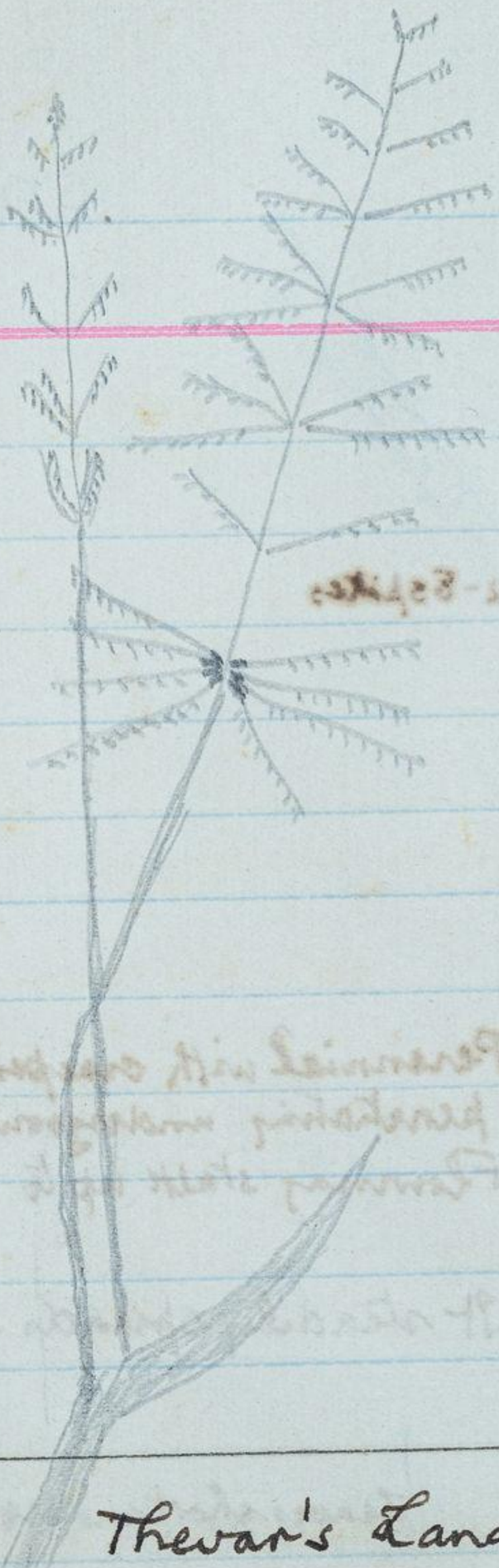
M



×½

T.

SPOROBOLUS
CORMANDELIANUS



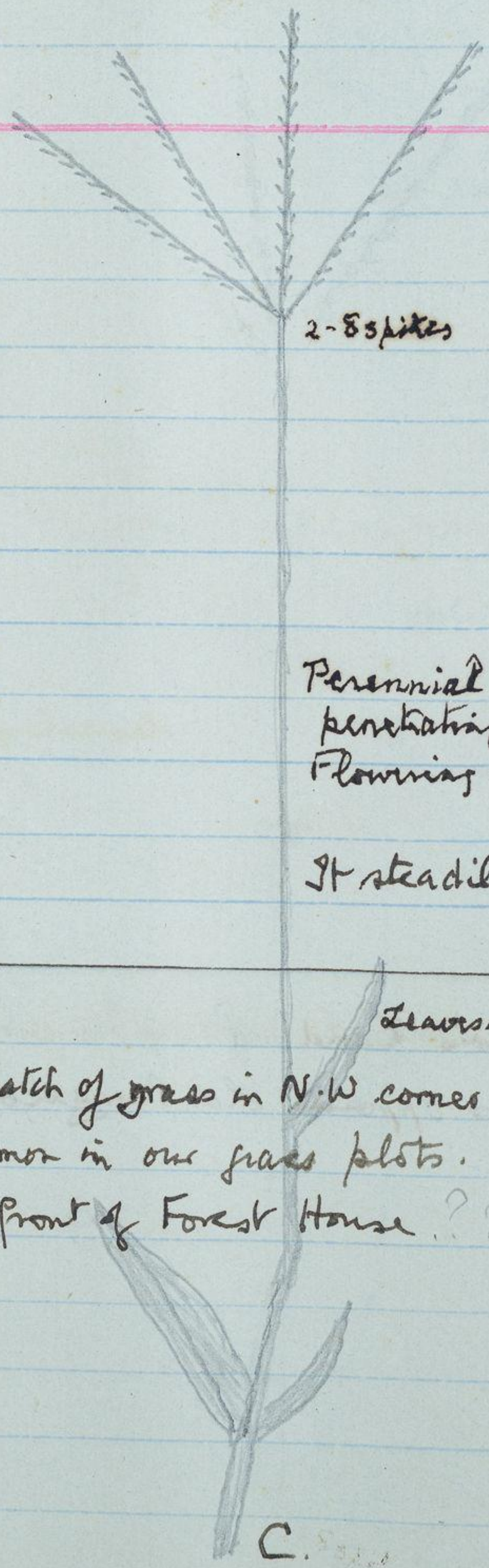
SLG. 234/235

D. In our N. Thevar's Land
In old place such as opposite old Bungalow Car Shed

T.

20

CYNODON BARBERI



Perennial with creeping branches, and deeply penetrating underground stem.
Flowering stalk up to 6"

It steadily spreads – a very useful grass.

S.I.G. 249, 250

Leaves short and broad

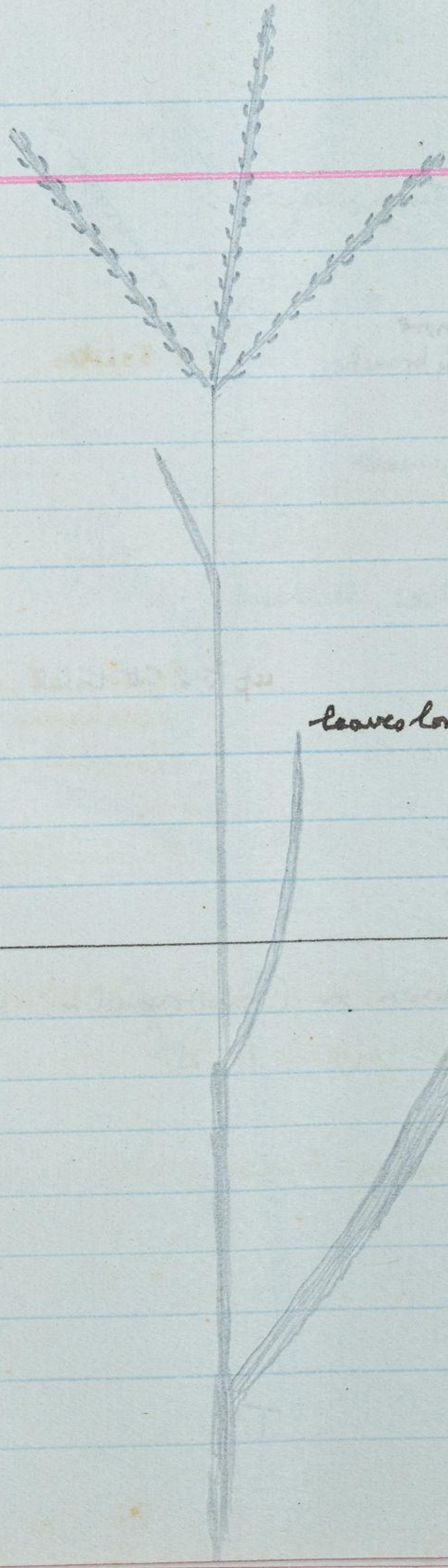
D The patch of grass in N.W. corner of Aruna Sthala courtyard
Common in our grass plots.

N. In front of Forest House ? Maybe another Cynodon or Digitaria flowering rather stouter curved

M

C.

CYNODON DACTYLON

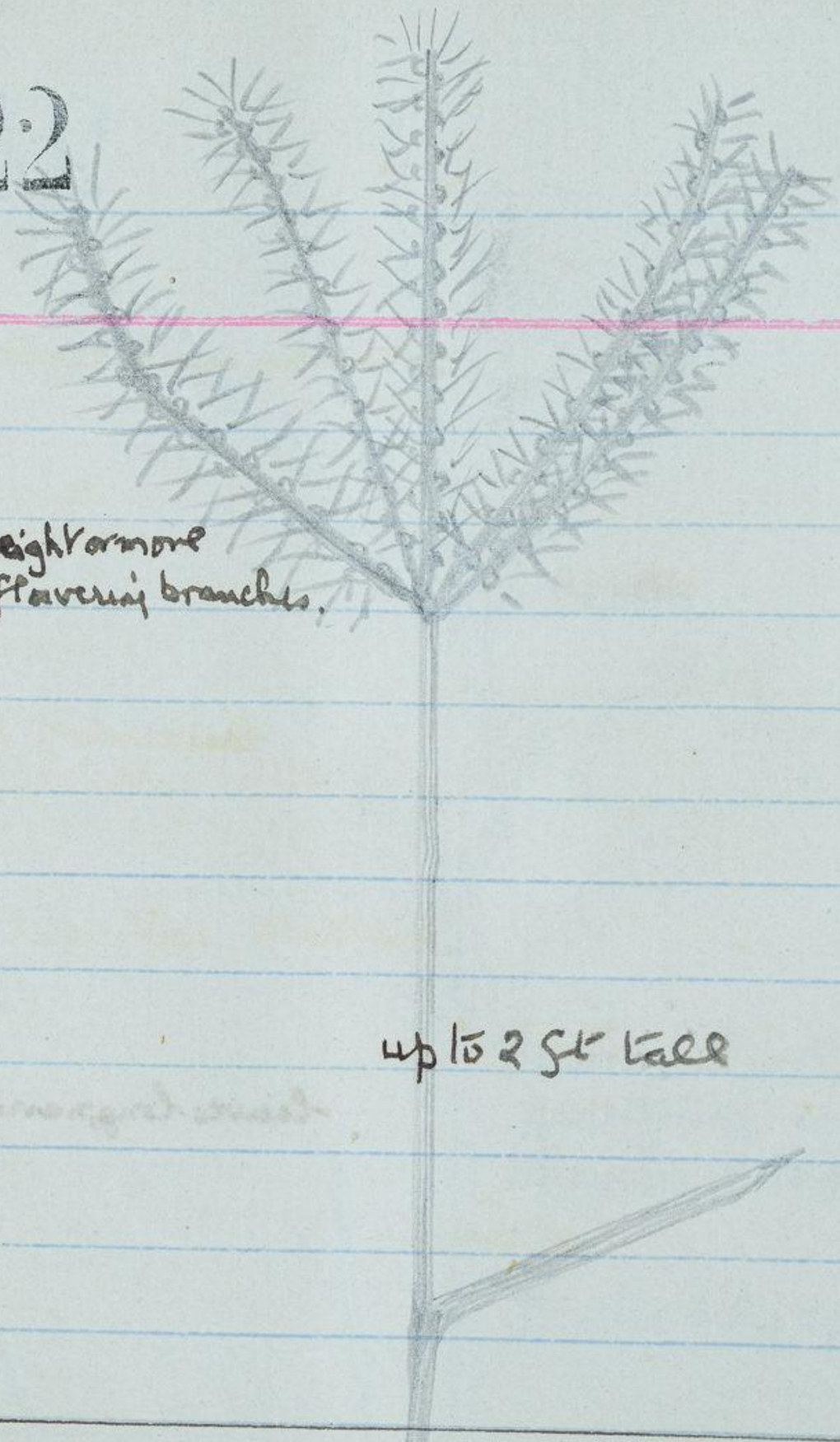


leaves long, narrow.

D.

22

CHLORIS BOURNEI



Eight or more
spreading branches.

up to 2 ft tall

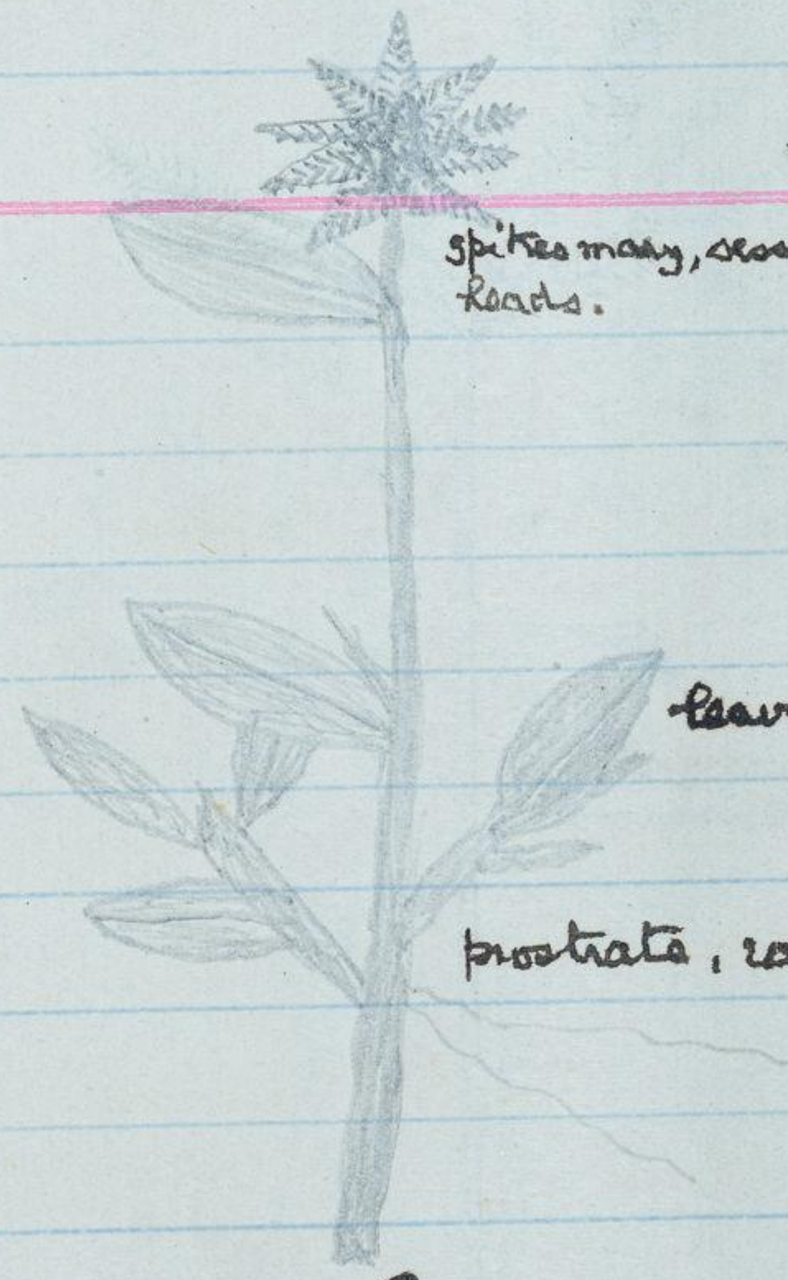
S.I.G. 266, 267

D Common in Compounds.

M

T.

ELEOSINE BREVIFOLIA



spikes many, sessile, crowded in globose heads.

leaves short, broad

prostrate, rooting at the nodes

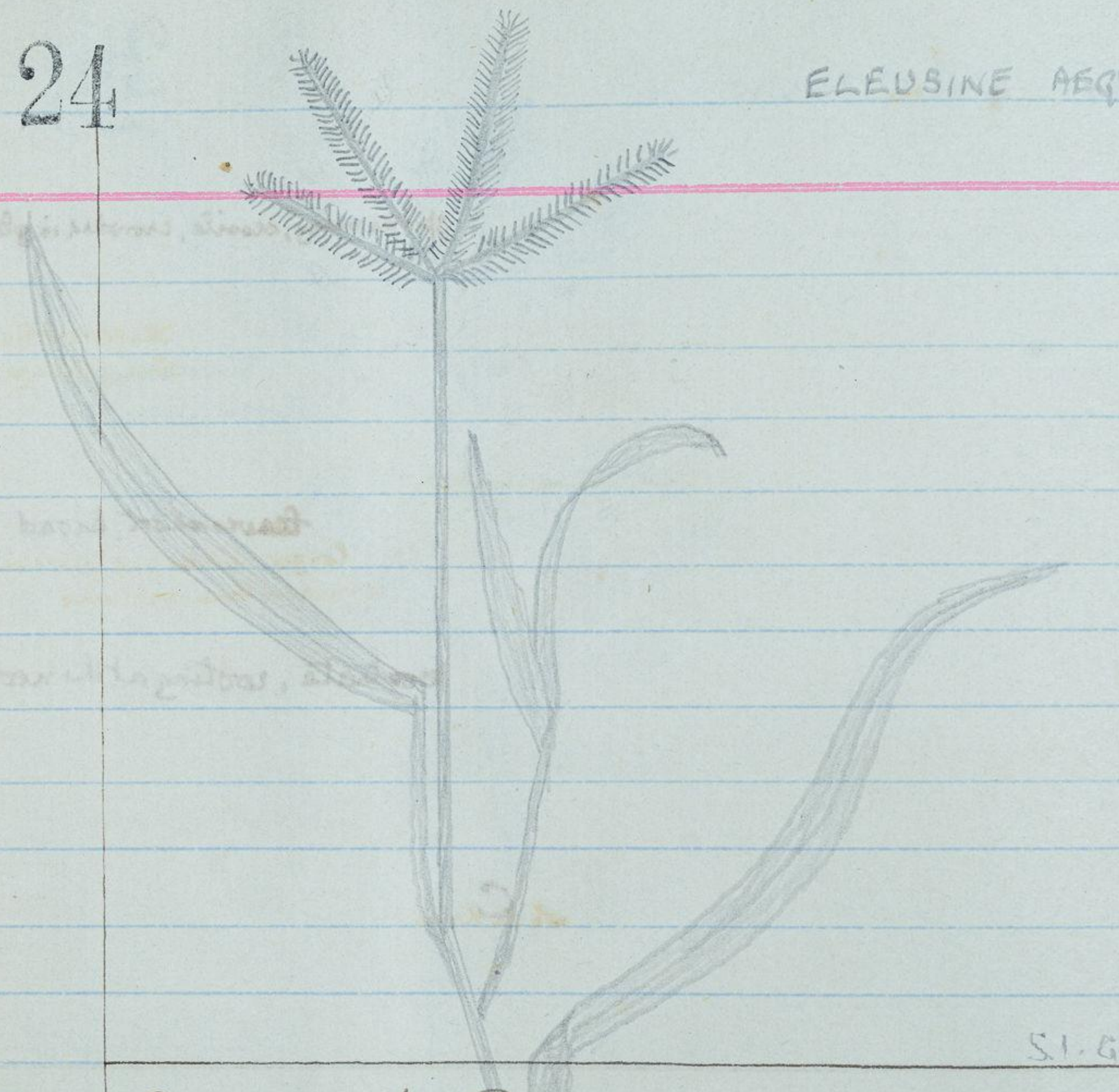
C.

S.I. G 274, 275.

D. In N. Thevar's land.

24

ELEUSINE AEGYPTIACA



S1. G 275,276

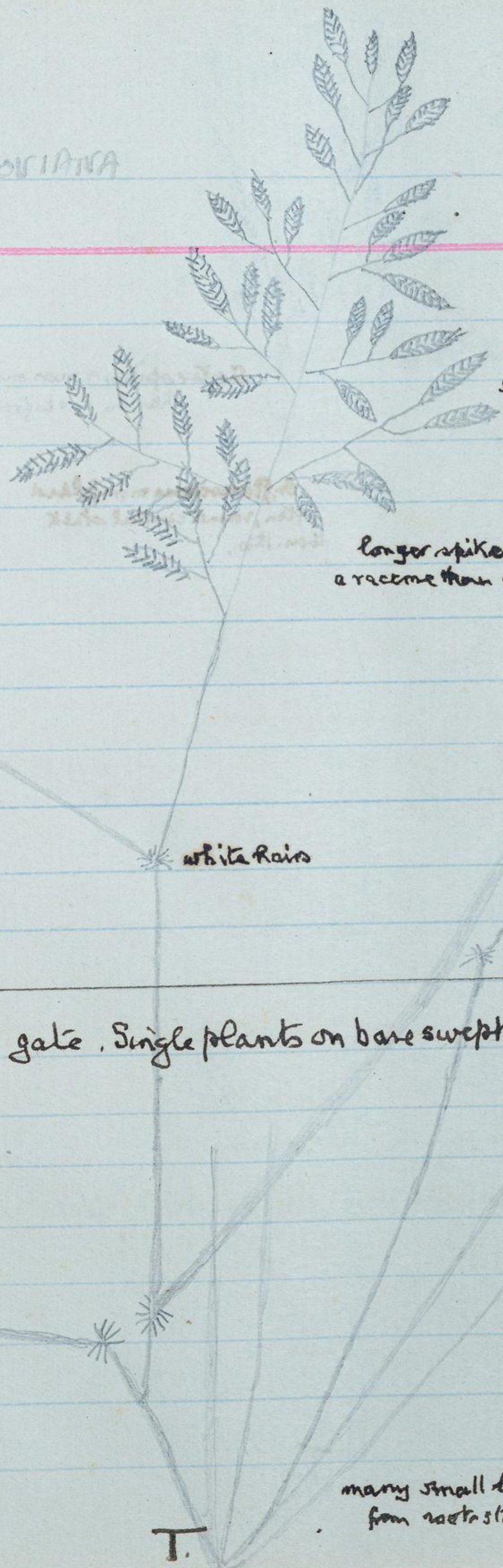
D. Common in the Compounds.

N. On path by Gardeners' House.

M

×1.

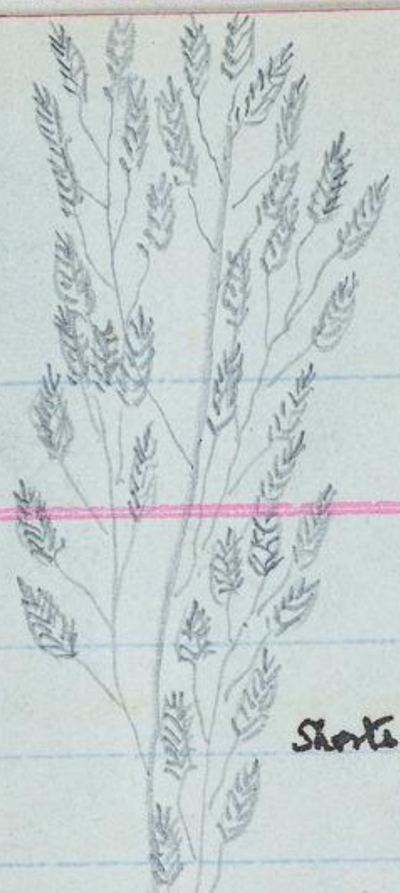
ERAGROSTIS WILLDENOWIANA



D Just inside old railway gate. Single plants on bare swept roads in V.C.

26

ERAGROSTIS



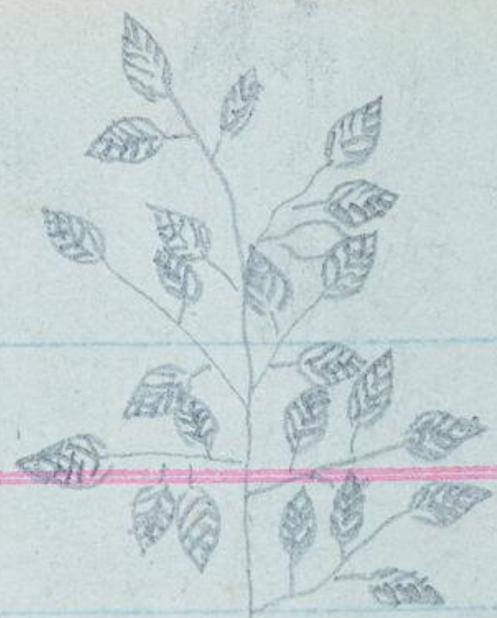
Shorter spikes & more on a terminal than the one before

Inflorescence more folded often, round central stalk Mon. this.

D

T.

ERAGROSTIS MAJOR



spikes very flat, much wider than one before.

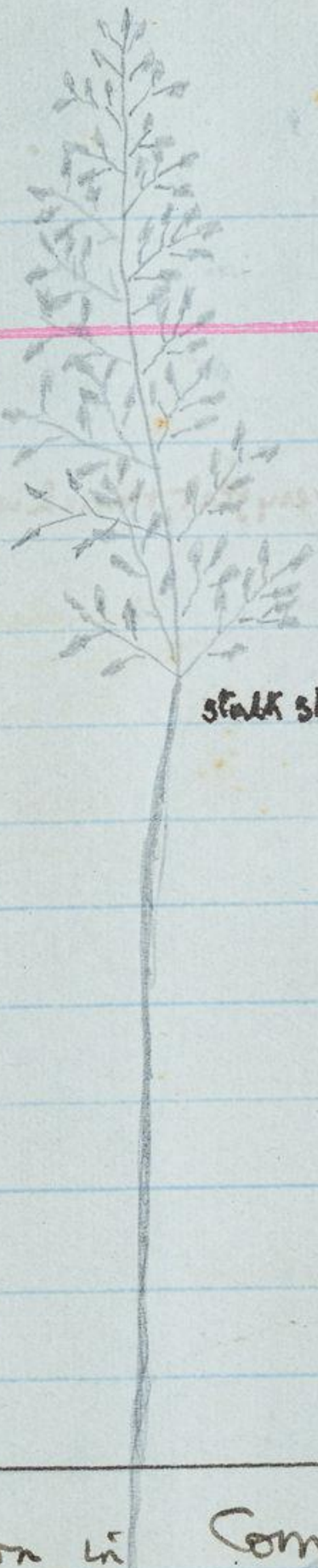
D

T.

2005

N. In flat area off Forest House front verandah.

ERAGROSTIS VISCIDA



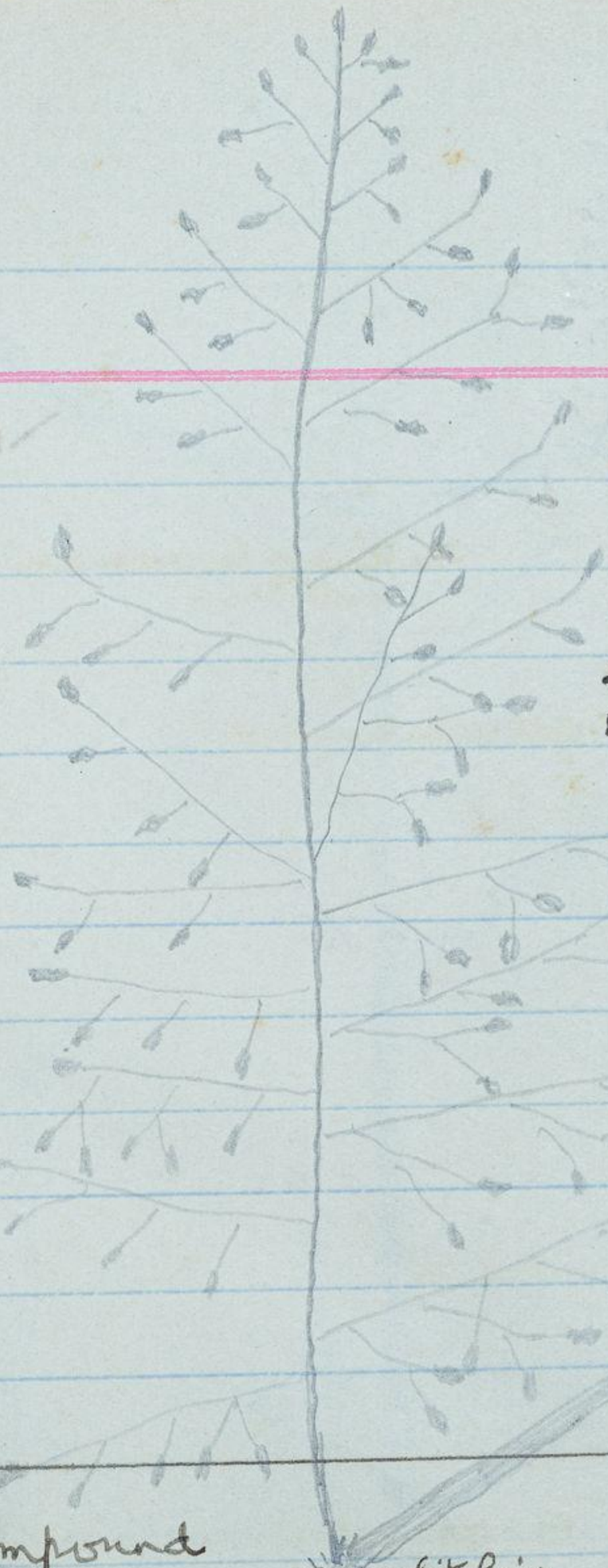
The flowers of this grass sometimes has a strong sickly smell like E. IW

stalk sticky throughout

D.	Common in Compounds
N.	Common by Forest House & in Garden
M (rarely)	

T.

ERAGROSTIS



Branches of inflorescence much longer and with fewer spikelets than the last one. Not sticky.

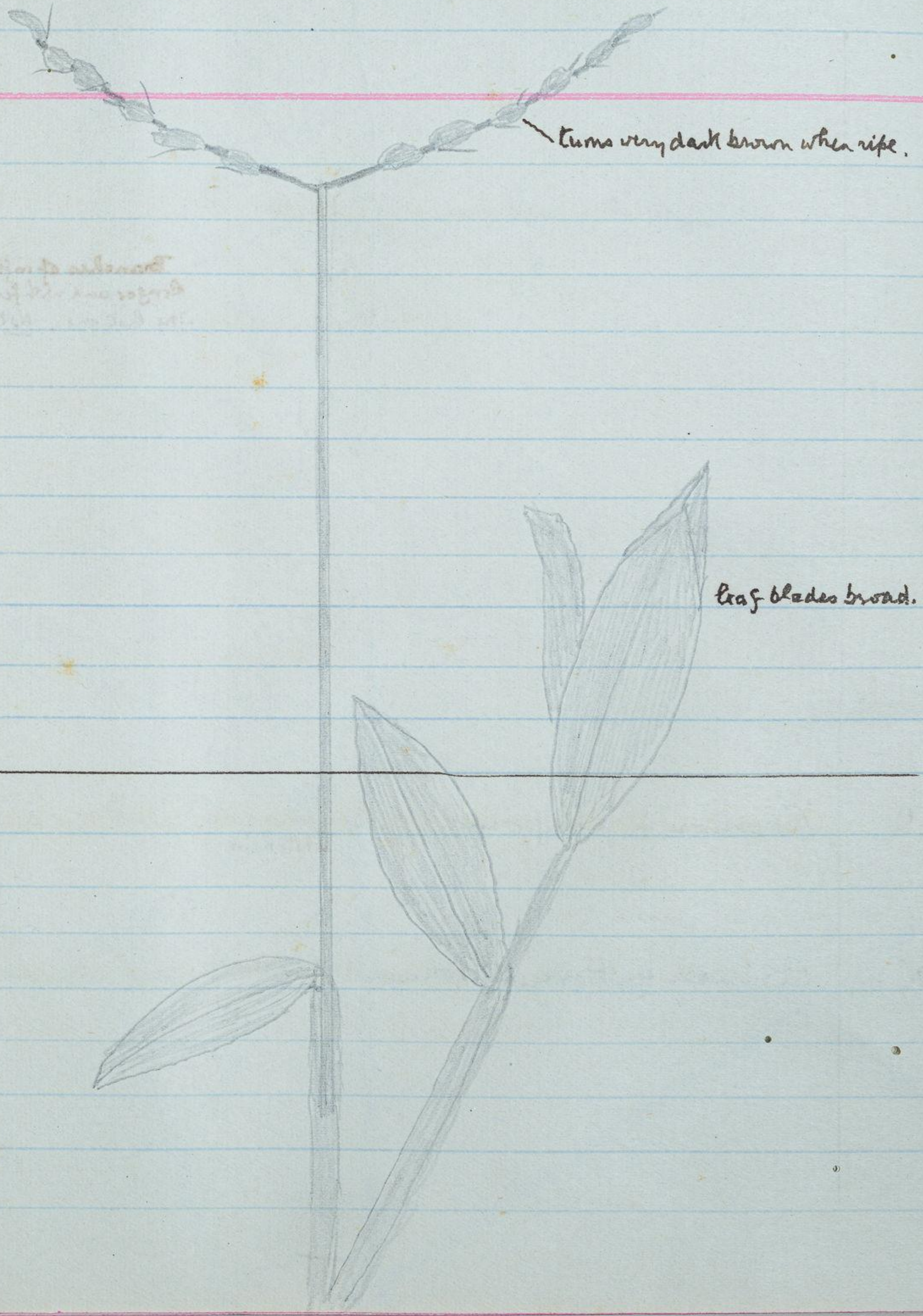
D. Common in Compound white Rains.

N. Common by Forest Horse

M

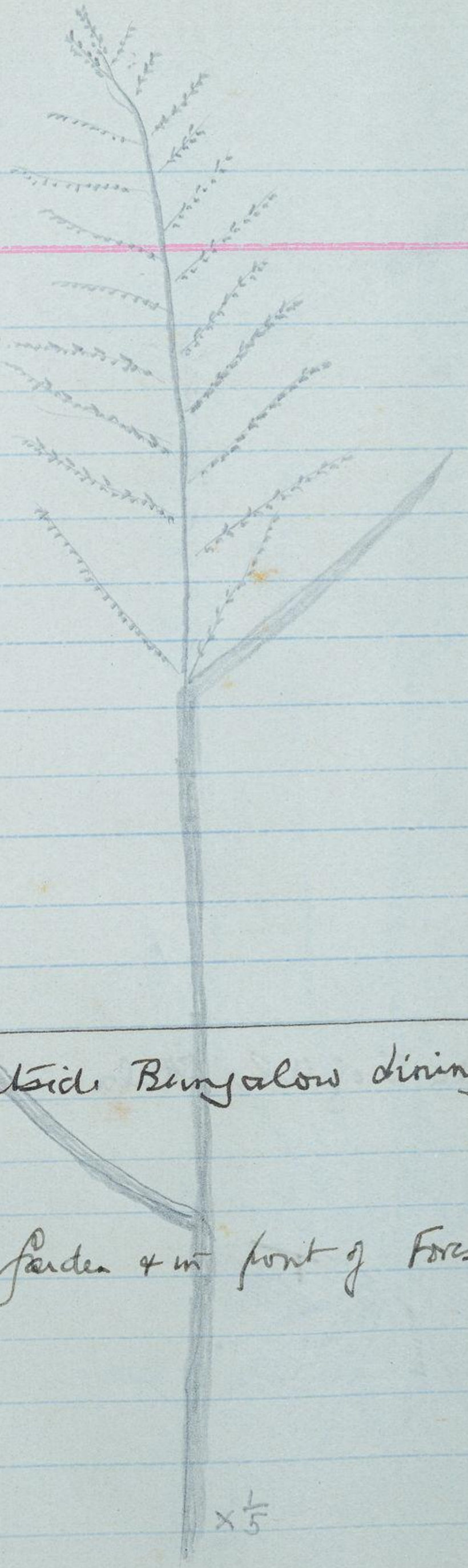
T.

30



D.

M



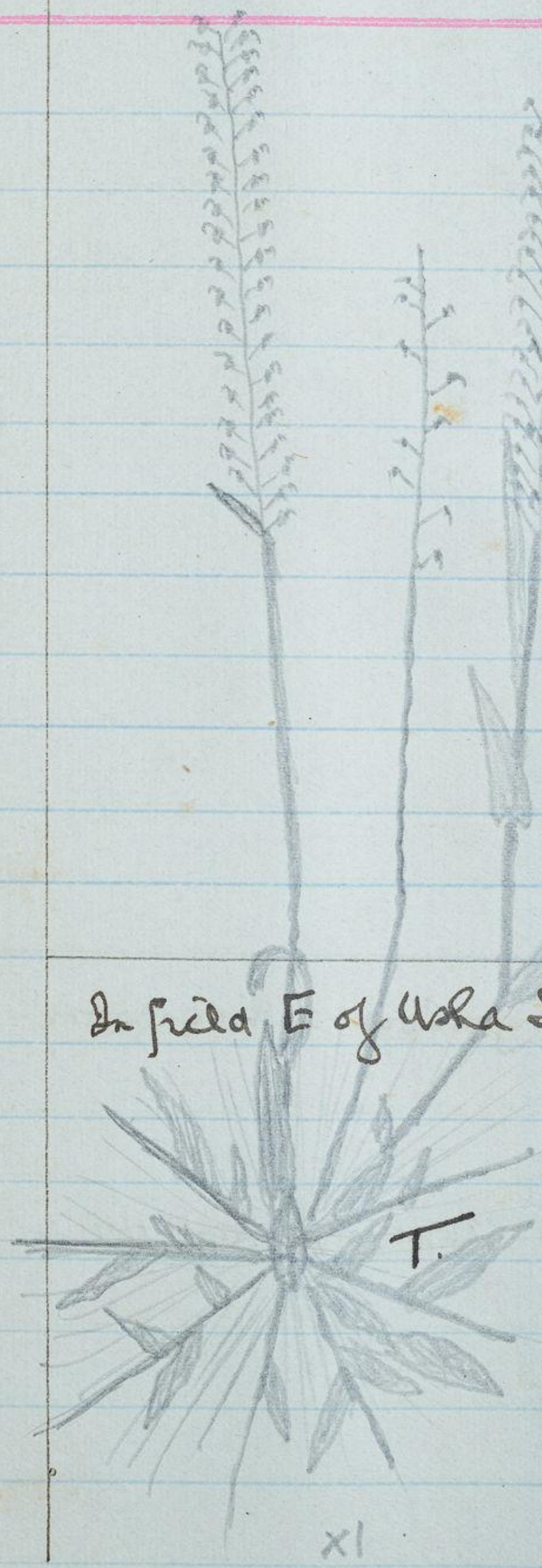
D | On grass patch outside Bungalow dining-room.

N. | Common in Annual's garden & in front of Forest House.

×1/5

D

In field E of Usha Sthala.



x1

D

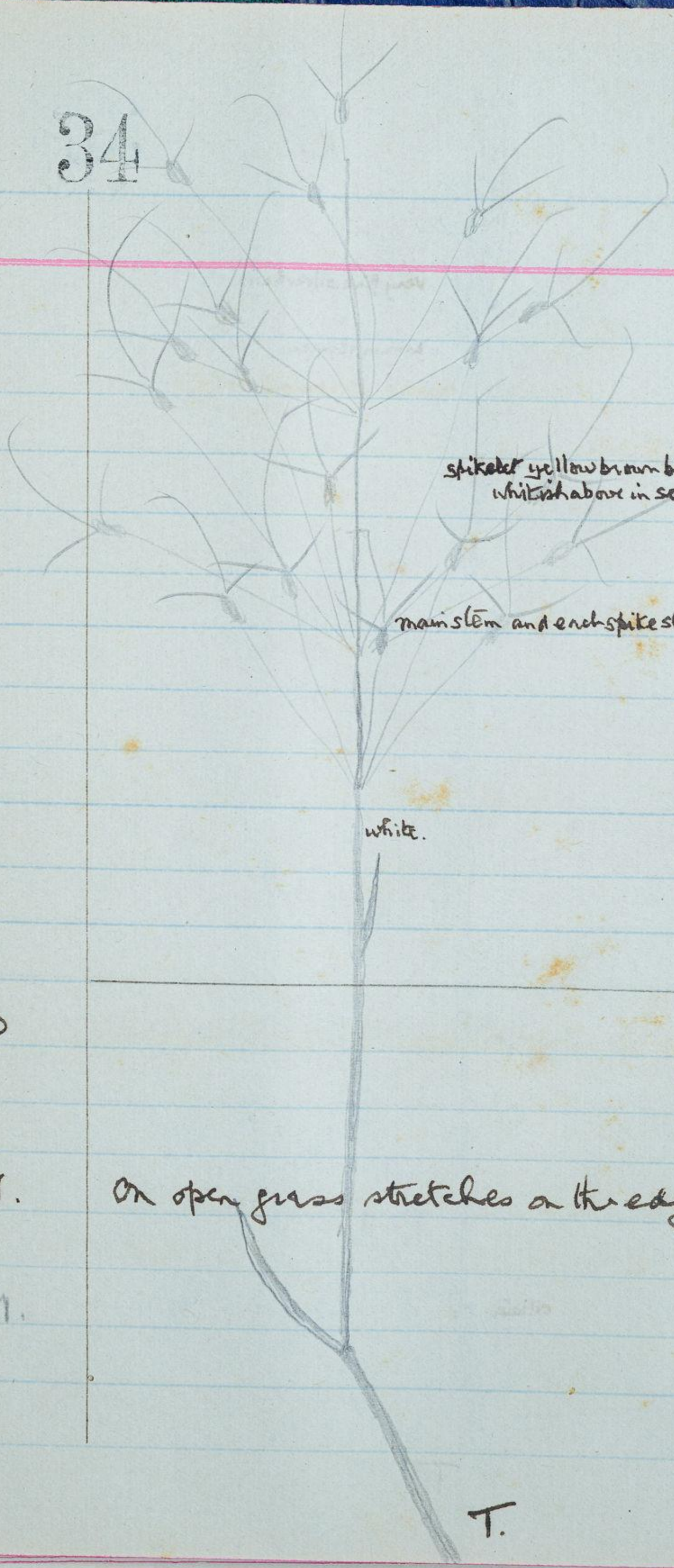
very fine silver hairs

brown stamens

ciliate

T.

34



spikelet yellow brown below,
whitish above in seed.

main stem and each spike stem bright purple

white.

D

N. On open grass stretches at the edge of shola ??

M.

T.

ANDROPOGON ??

CHLORIS ??

golden awn

awns a goldenish colour

spikelet x1

glistening white hairs

up to 1 x spikelet

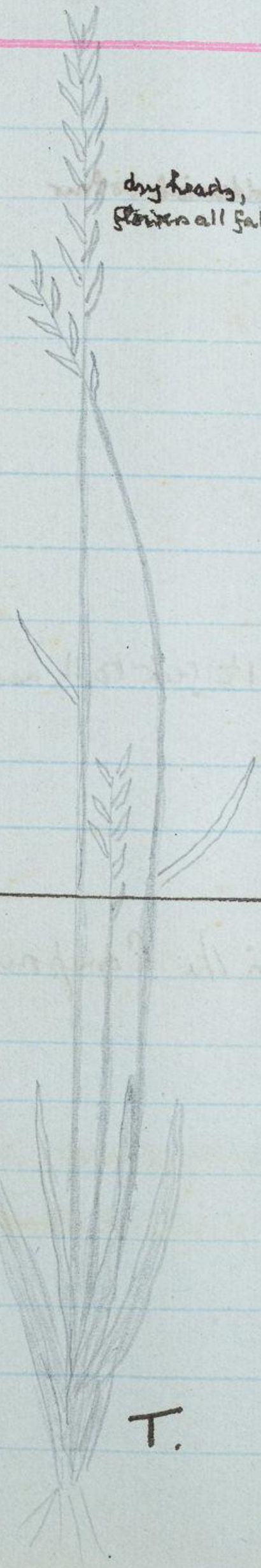
upto 1½ feet tall, usually less.

D Here and there among other grasses in the Compounds, not abundant

T.

36

POMMEREULLA CORNUCOPIAE



S.I.G 285.276

rich insect-brown colour.
inflorescence covered with silky brown hairs.
earlier it is a grey brown colour.

About 1½-2 feet tall

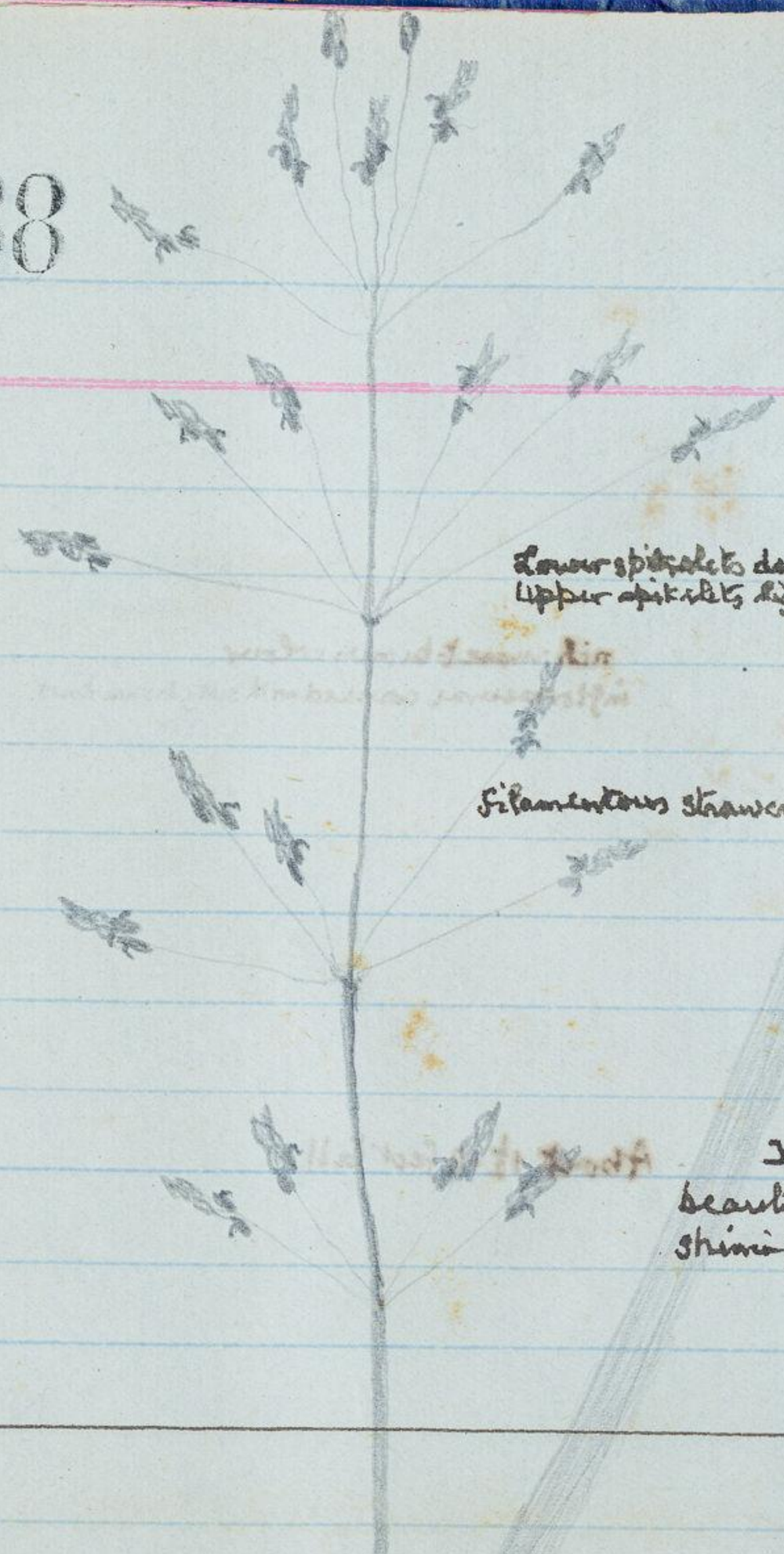
N. Sept.

N. In grass slopes near Shola.
Vishana Malai – where Jackson's Path comes out off shola.

X ⅓

T.

38



The whole upto 3½ ft tall. A very beautiful grass because of the deep shining golden colour of its inflorescence.

N. Sept.

T

N. On Grass patches within the Estate. By the path just E of Toy Gate. Much beside upper path to Strangle House

T.

SACCHARUM SPONTANEUM

Thro very tall 10-15' silvery plume grass by rivers.

D Beside rivers and wide channels where there is often water

40

சுக்குனரிப்புல்

Ginger-Grass

6 feet or more tall.

N. Sept.

I D All over the Foothills

N On open hillsides.

×¼

T

Golden Grass

Very often the branches stand together appearing as a single spike.

Outside glumes covered with beautiful golden-brown pubescence. Awns dark brown almost black

softly white-Rainy

$2\frac{1}{2}$-3 feet tall.

N. Sept-

N | Vattara Malai where Jackson's Path comes out of Shola

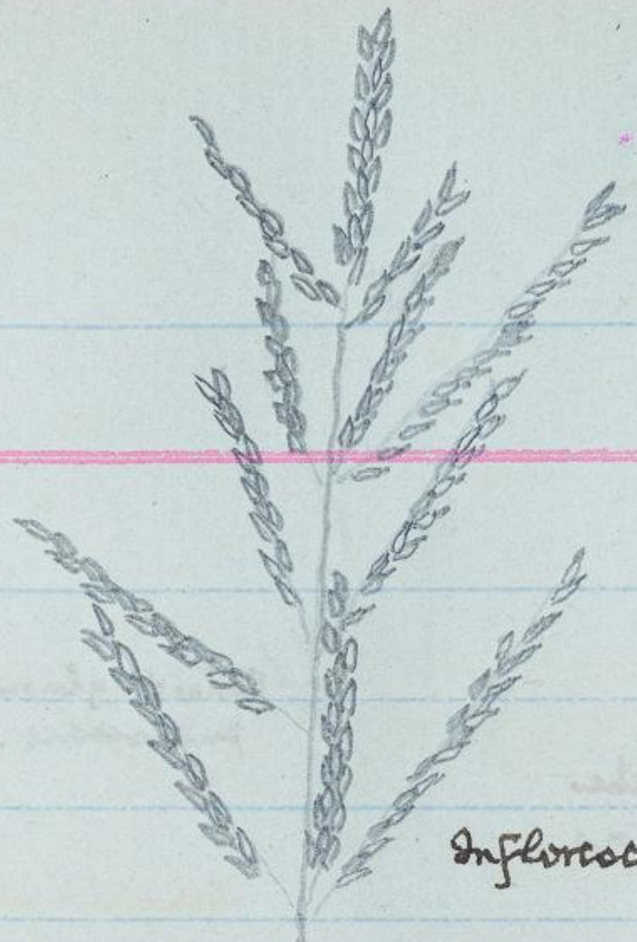
Open high grass slopes.
View Point. S of our Valley.

$\times \frac{1}{2}$

T

42

PANICUM ?



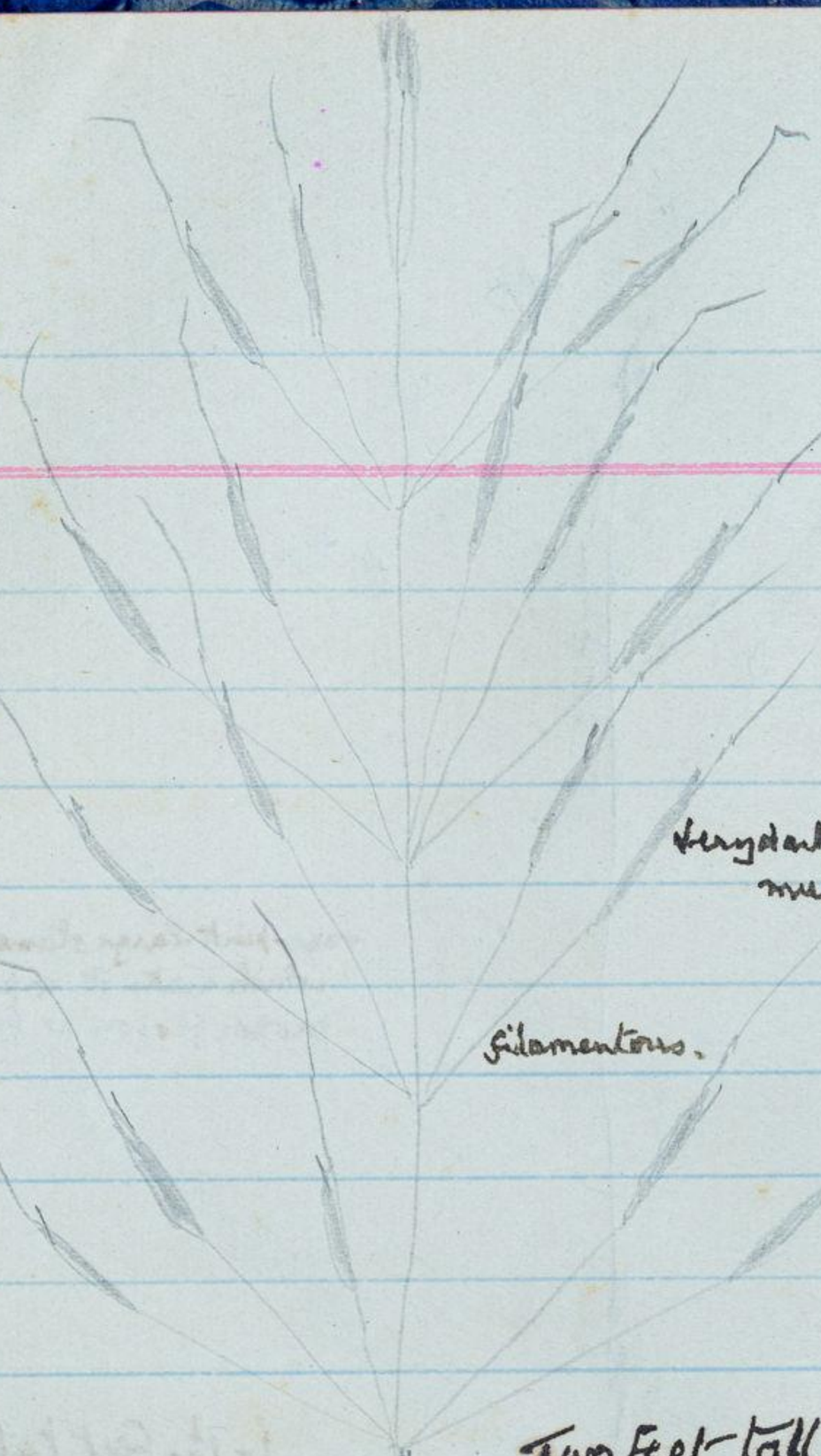
Inflorescence & stalk dark purple

Two feet tall

N. Sept

N | Vistara Malai where Jackson's Path comes out of Shola
Open high grass slopes

T.



very dark, almost black in appearance
much of it dark purple

filamentous.

bent awn.

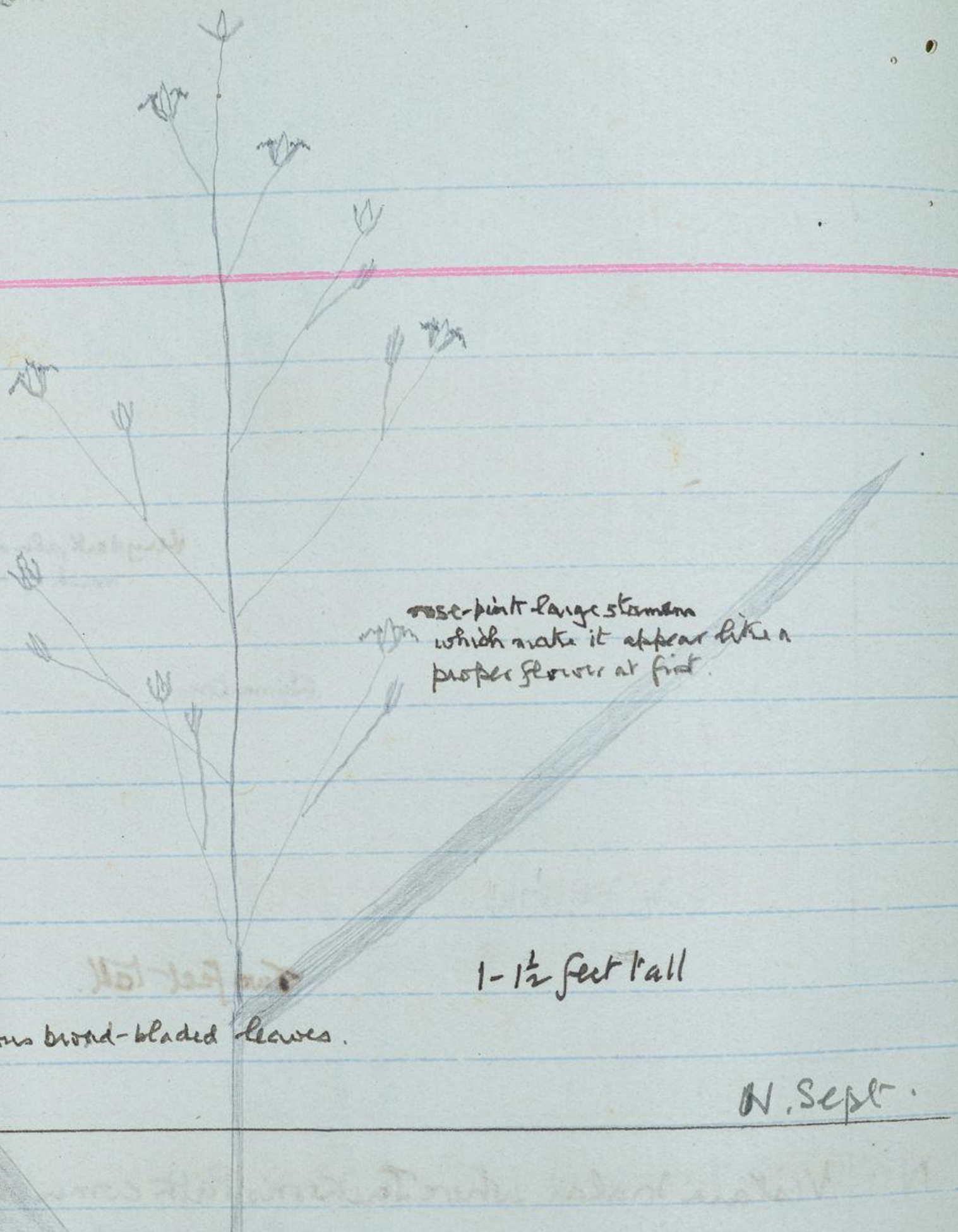
Two feet tall.

N. Sept.

N. Vistara Malai where Talkson's Path comes out of Shola
and other open grass slopes.
View Point on S. side of our valley.

T.

44



rose-pink large stamens which make it appear like a proper flower at first.

1-1½ feet tall

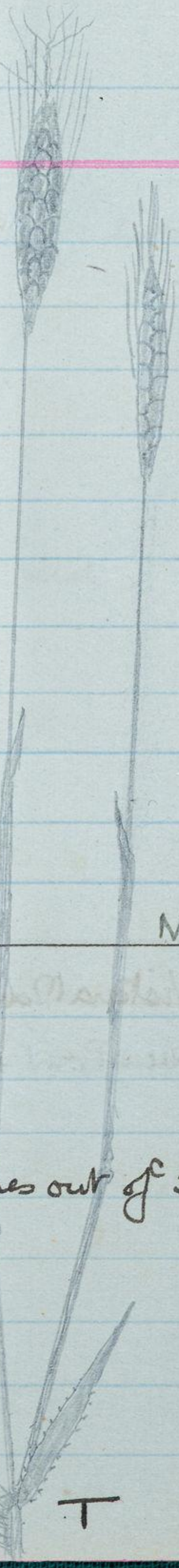
Luscious broad-bladed leaves.

N. Sept.

T

N. Jackson's Path, at many points, common, in shola shade.

T.



rich chocolate-brown. awns of same colour.

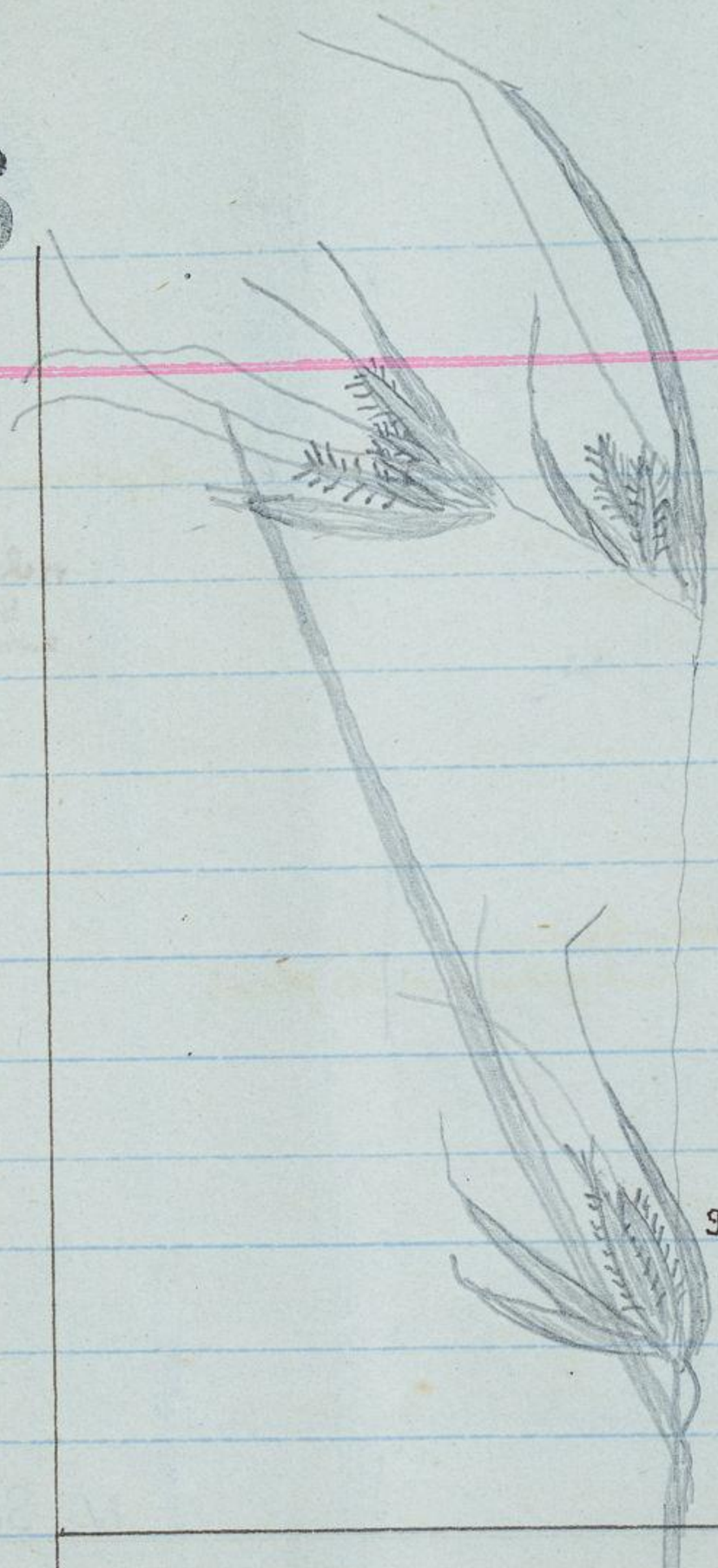
N. Sept-.

N. Vistara Malai, where Jackson's Path comes out of Shola

Long brownish hairs

46

ANTHISTIRIA ? CILIATA ? (F. 594)



most of inflorescence a bright tile orange brown colour

glumes covered with orange brown hairs

1-1½ feet tall.

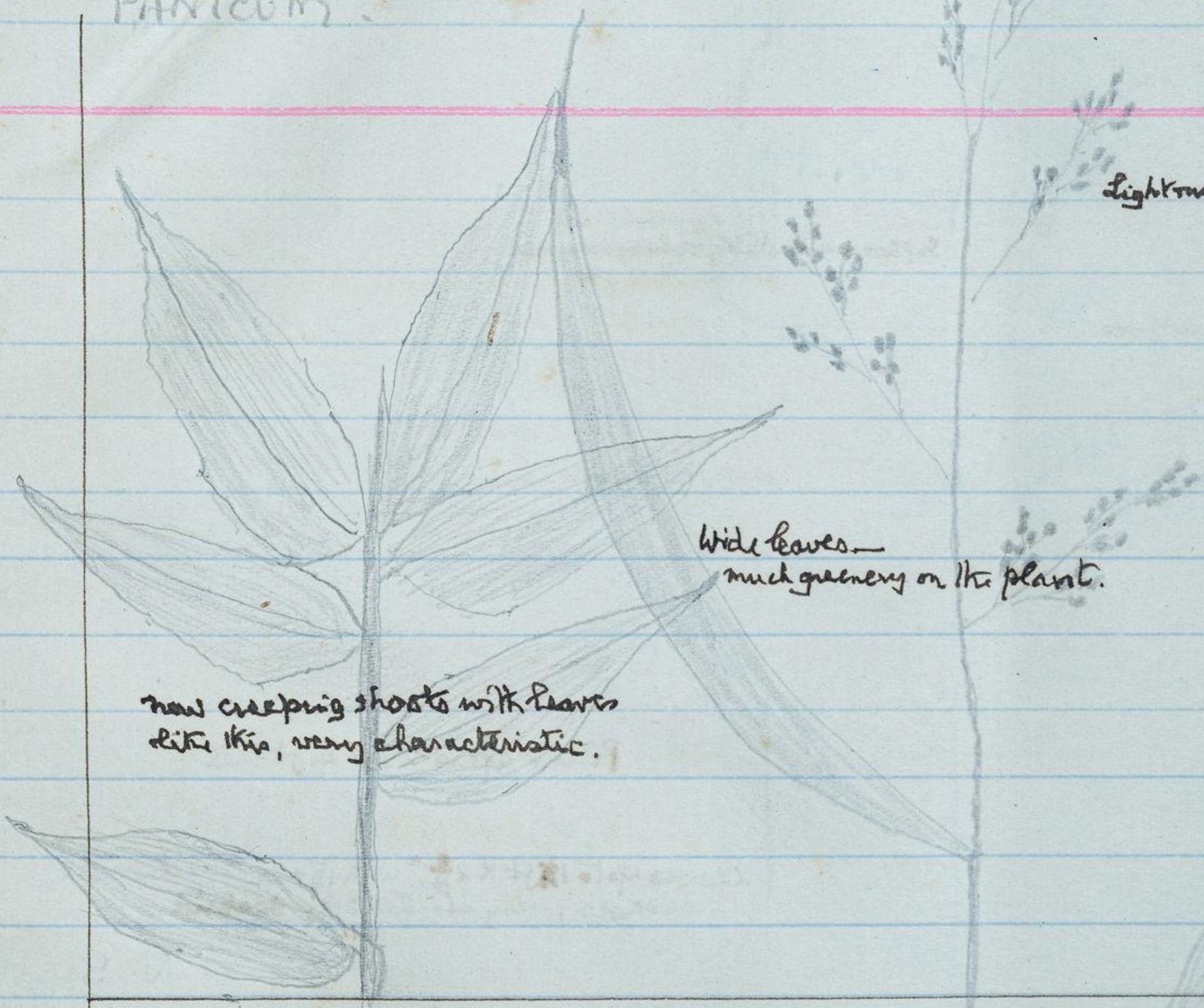
N. Sept

T

N. Vistara Malai where Jackson's Path comes out of Shola - by path.
View Point - on S. side of our valley

T.

PANICUM?



Light rose brown spikelets

Wide leaves—
much greenery on the plant.

new creeping shoots with leaves like this, very characteristic.

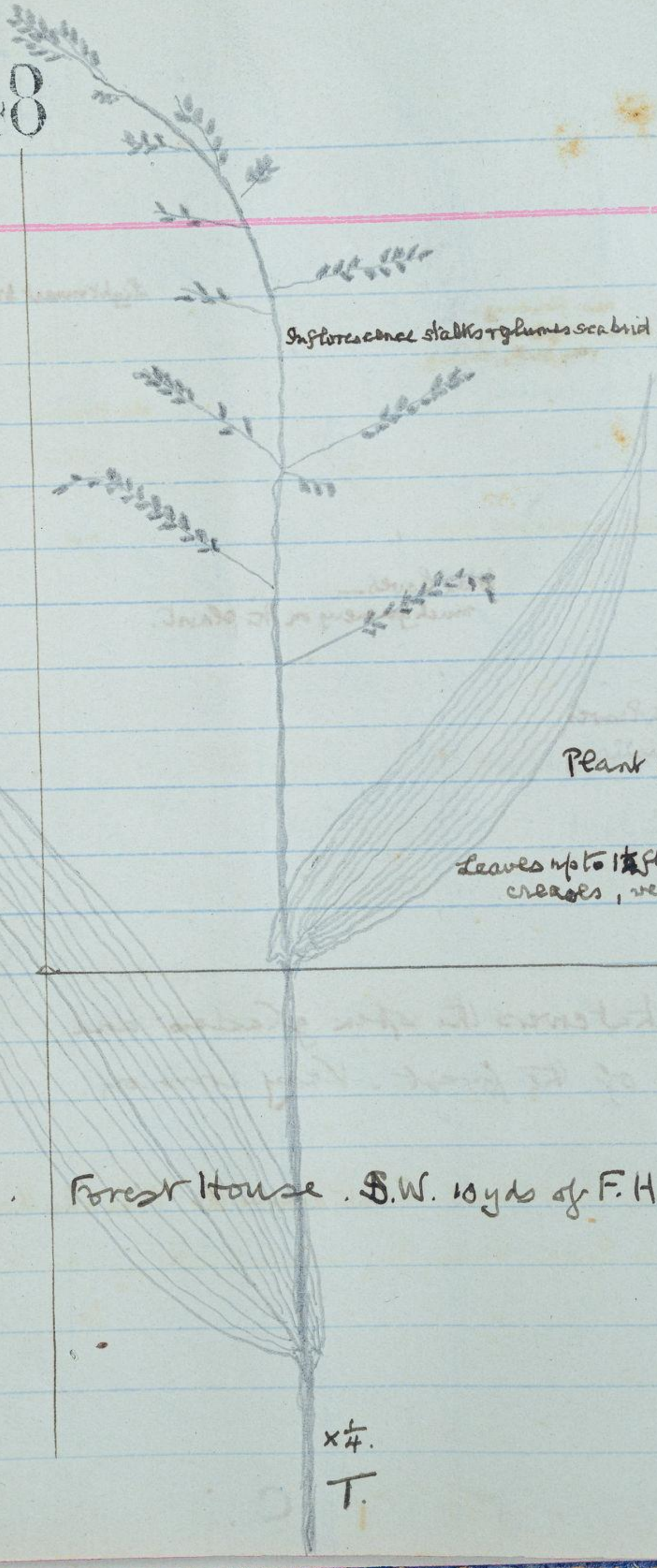
N. Sept.

N. The creeping grass that covers the open glades and boundary paths of the forest. Very common.

C.

48

PANICUM ?



Inflorescence stalks & glumes scabrid.

Plant up to over 4 ft tall

Leaves up to 1½ ft × 2½" with 18-20 longitudinal creases, very distinctive, scabrid.

N. Sept

7

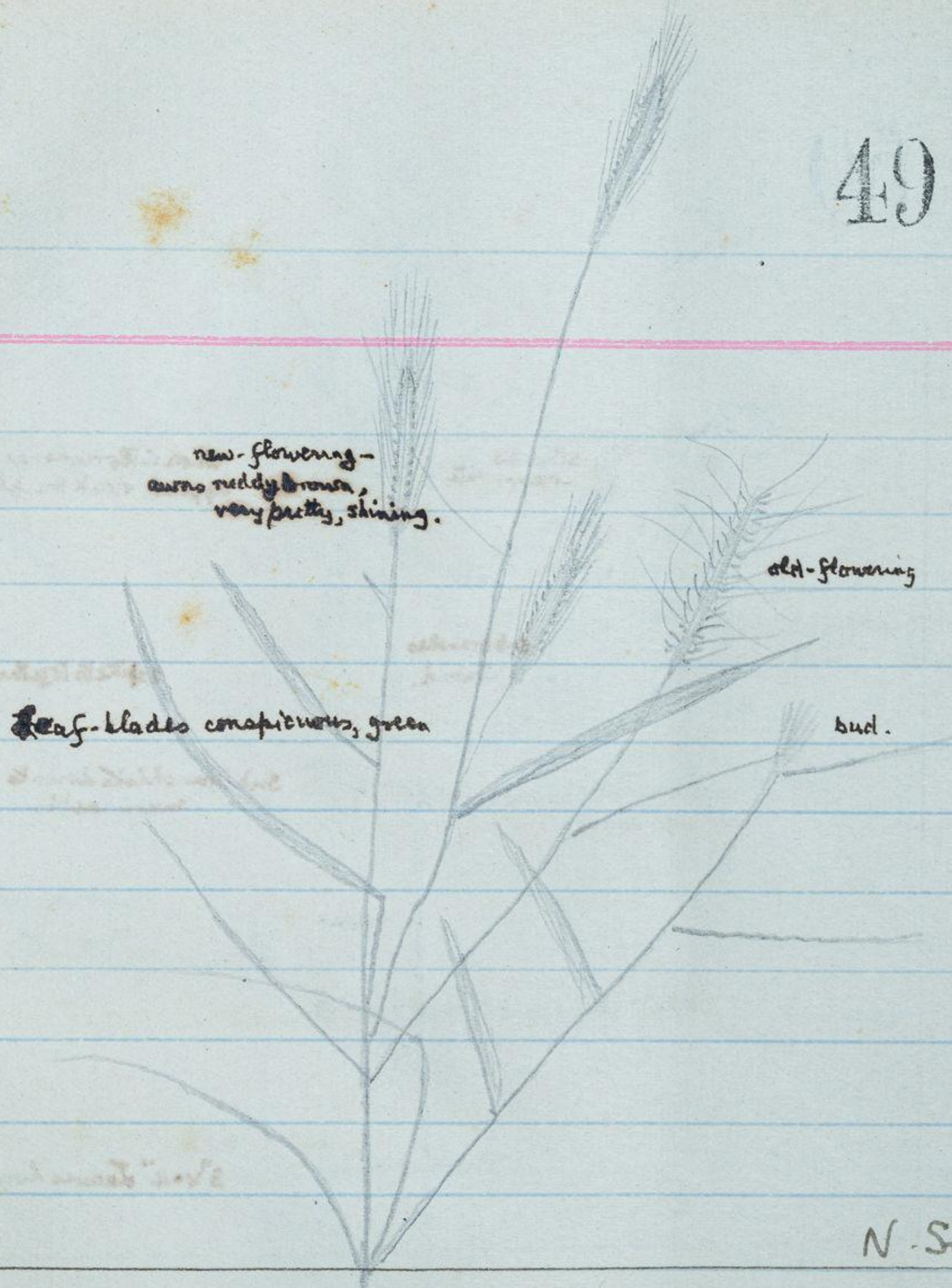
N. | Forest House. S.W. 10 yds of F.H. by an orange tree.

× ¼.

T.

new-flowering—
culms ruddy brown,
very pretty, shining.

old-flowering



Leaf-blades conspicuous, green

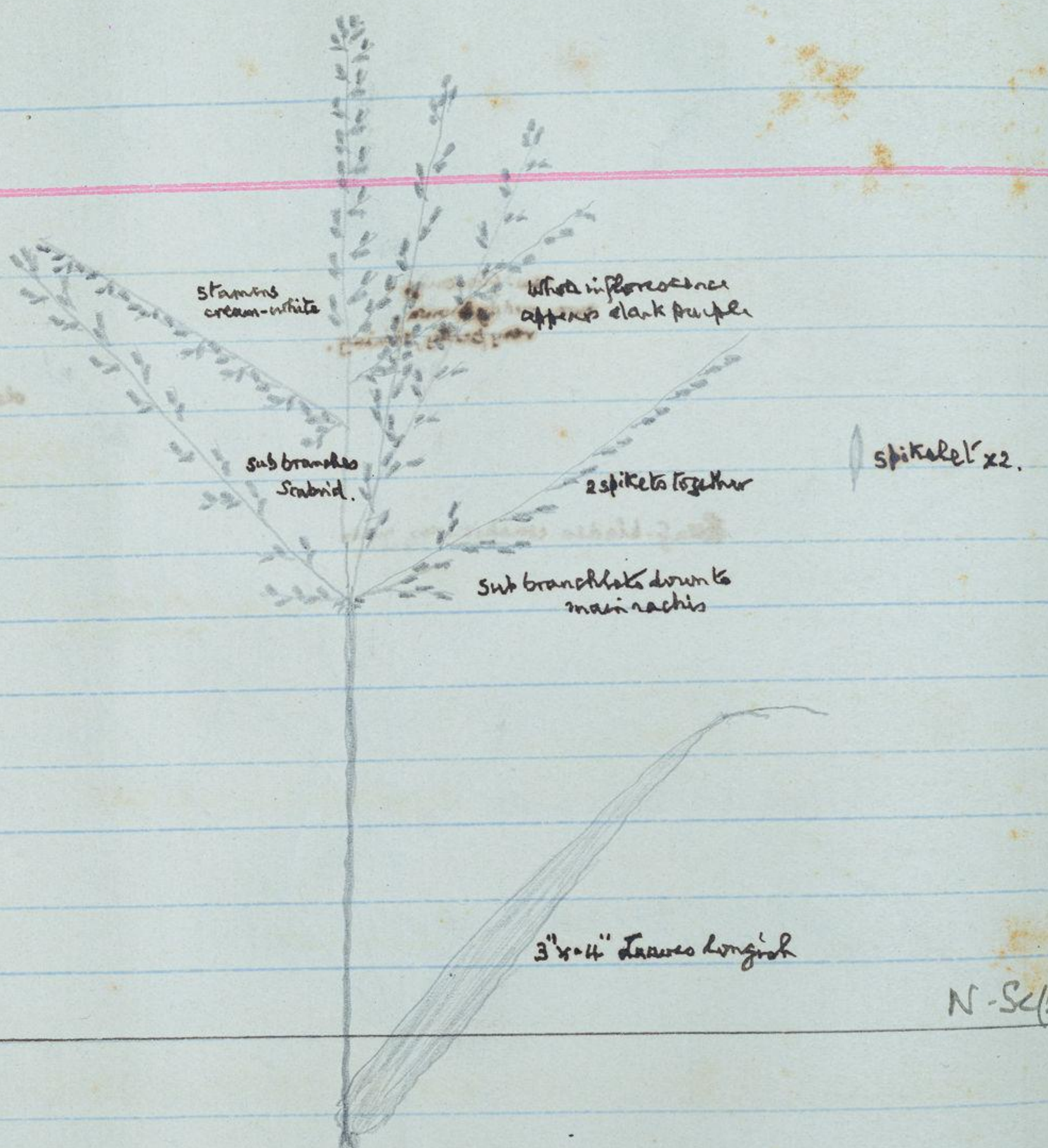
bud.

N. Sept.

N. In cracks of rocks in river beds. Just above the Manahatta, etc.
in Snake Valley Cove waterfall slope just above Panther Path

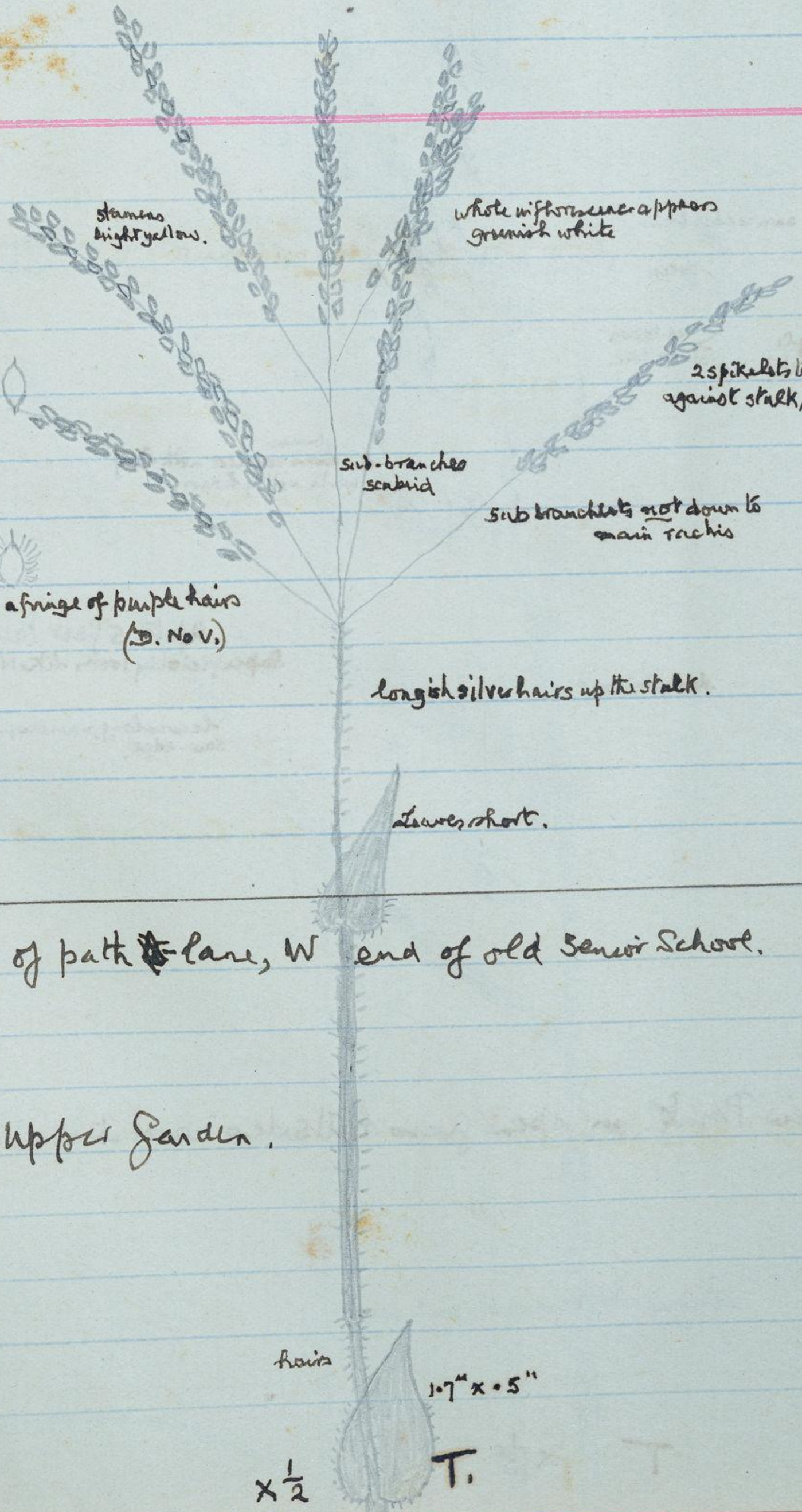
T. T

50



N. Inthe upper Garden

T. $\times \frac{1}{2}$.



D | Wedge of path & lane, W end of old Senior School.

N | In the Upper Garden.

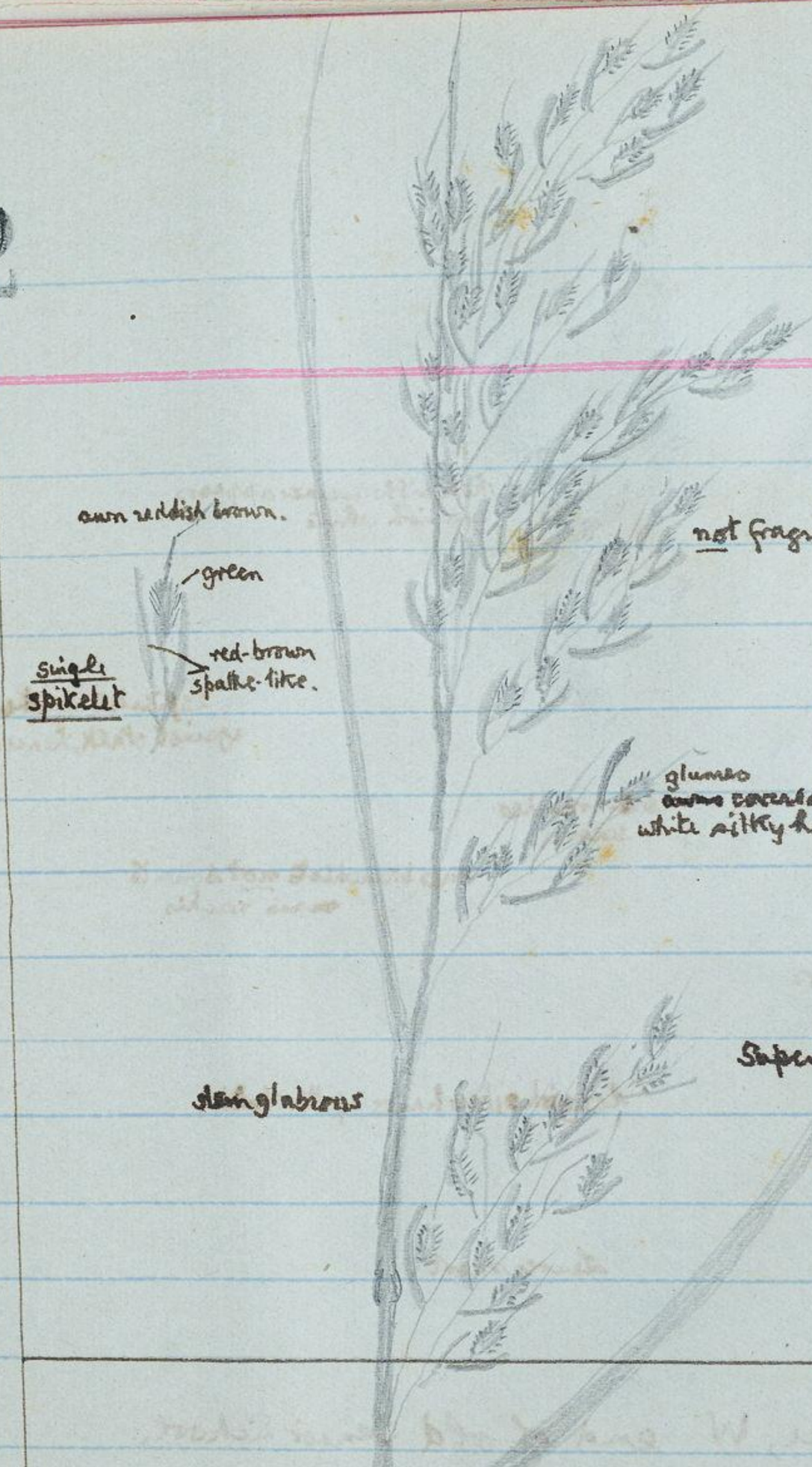
hairs

1·7" x ·5"

x ½

T.

52



own reddish brown.

green

not fragrant.

single spikelet

red-brown spathe-like.

glumes covered with long white silky hair.

Up to 5 feet tall

Superficially looks like No. 40.

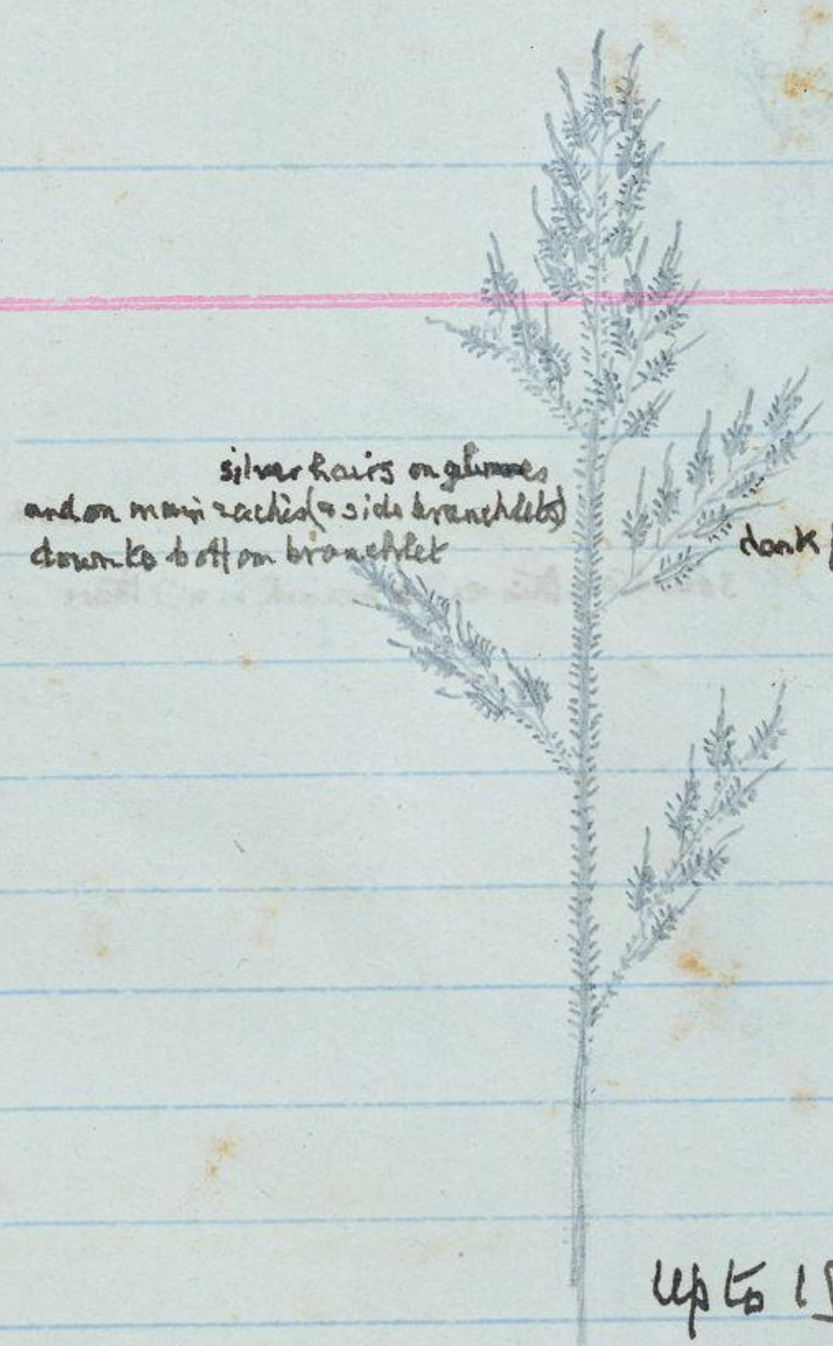
stem glabrous

leaves long, narrow, saw-edge

N. Sept

N. View Point, on open grass hillsides about it – common.

T × ⅛. T



Up to 1 foot tall.

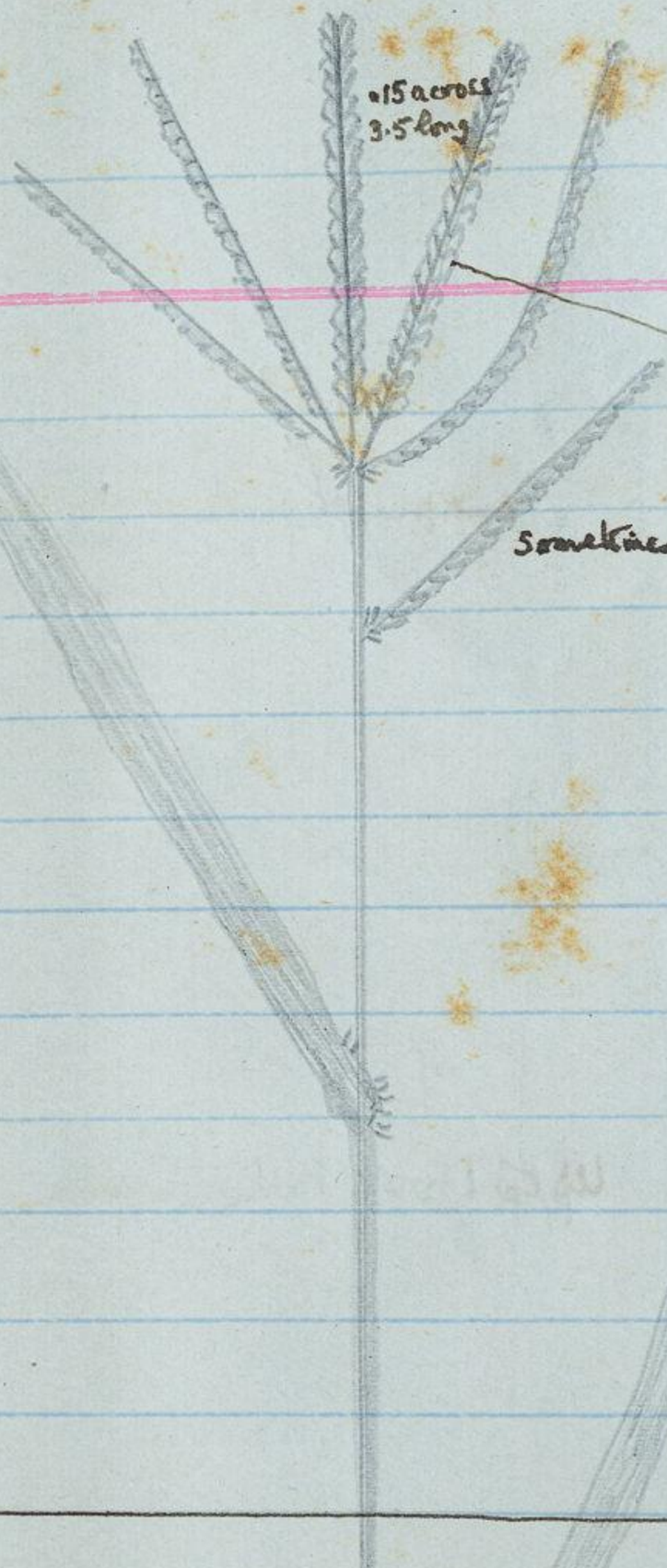
N. Sept

N. View Point, on the grass slope near it.

many dead leaf sheaths close below

T

54



Sometimes this extra branch is not there

each seedlum is a ~~six~~ ~~spikelobbed~~ ~~spikelet~~ ~~spikelet~~ ~~spikelet

the spikelets all on one side of a flat with the rachis which is bent longitudinally

Spike flattened

Sometimes found with two heads

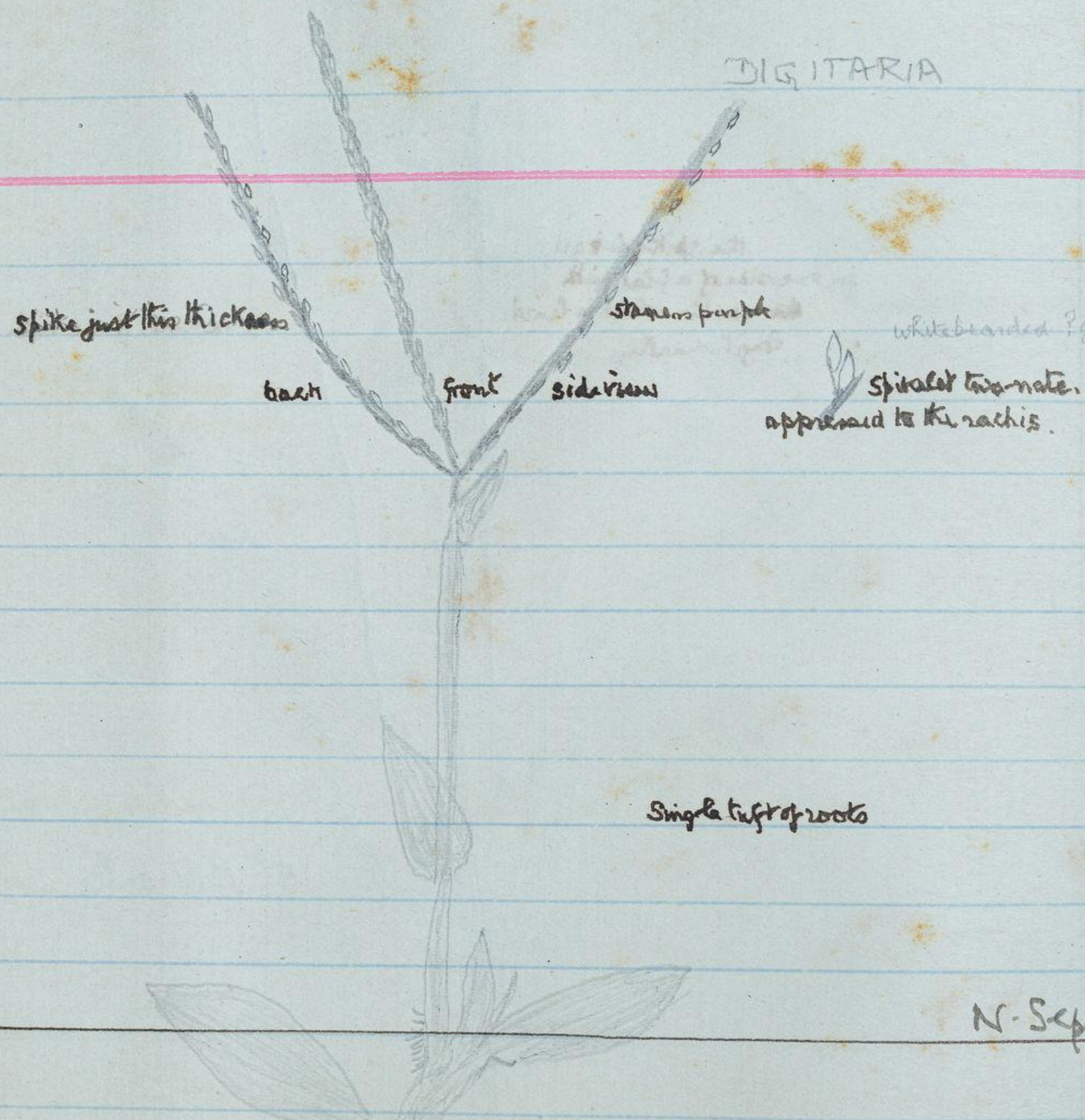
like No 36 superficially

5" tall only.

N At top of the garden in sandy by water runnel N

56

DIGITARIA

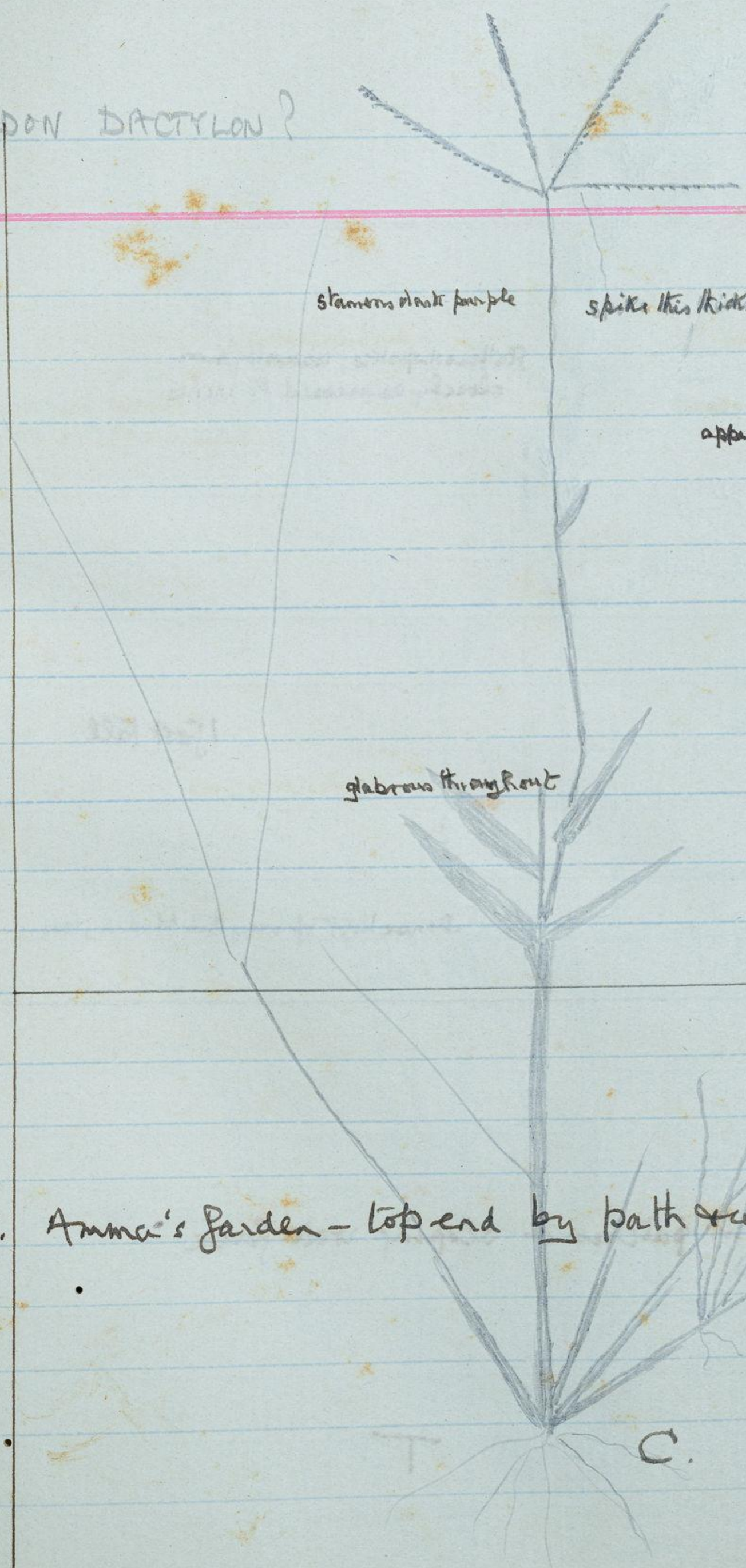


N-Sept

N. Forest House - Front courtyard

T.

CYNODON DACTYLON?



stamens dark purple

spike like thickness only.

spikelets single
appressed to the rachis

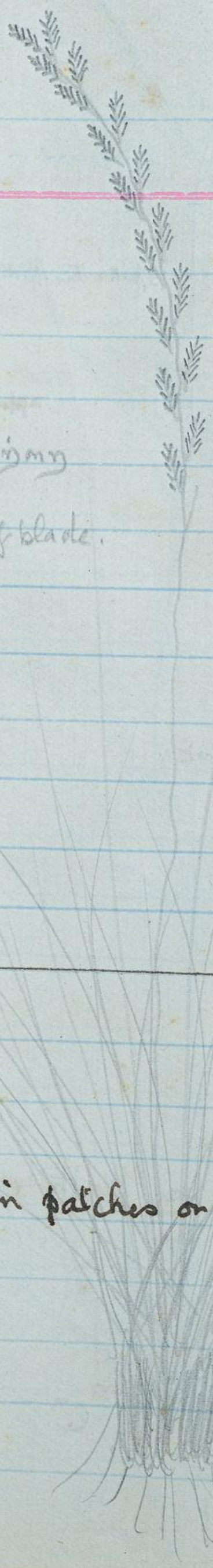
glabrous throughout

rooting at the nodes.

N. Sept

N. Amma's garden – top end by path & water tunnel.

C.



Flattened spikes, usually more closely appressed to rachis.

M

from Ghom Dunjany
Is this the same?
It has a wider leaf blade.

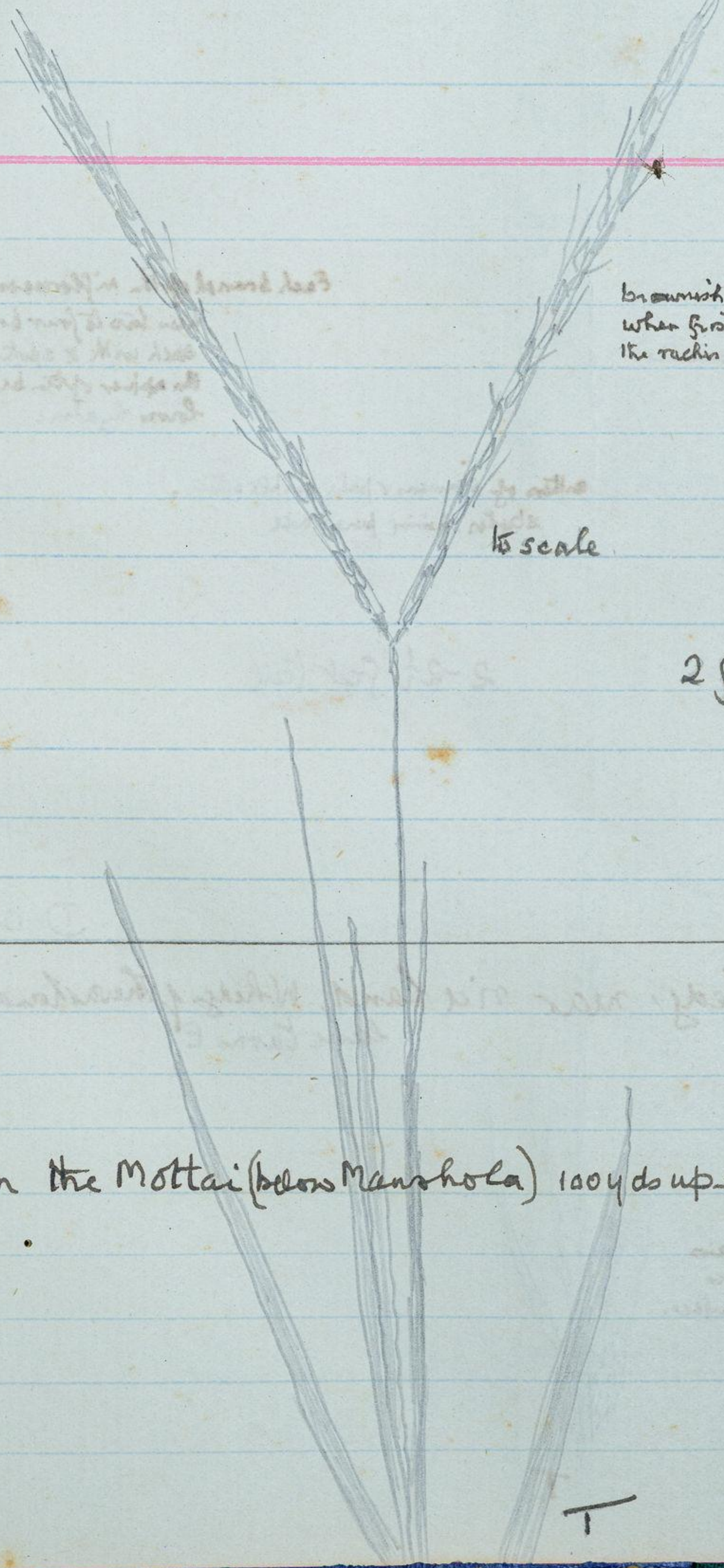
1 foot tall

Dense tuft of very thin-bladed grass.

N. On the Mottai in patches on sloping rock face
(below Manshota)

M

T



brownish colour, awns dark brown.
when first unfolding all are pressed against
the rachis and only terminal awns are noticeable

½ scale

2 feet tall

N. Sept

N. On the Mottai (below Manshola) 100 yds up-slope in Arundina Marsh.

T

60

The whole straw-colour in appearance

Infl. almost full size.

Each branch of the inflorescence bears two to four branchlets each with 2 spikelets. the upper of the brownish, lower hyaline.

anthers of stamens & pale purple white, stigmas shining pure white.

2-2½ feet tall.

D. Oct.

D. In cactus hedge, near rice land, W hedge of the wasteland where lane turns E.

v. short rough hairs on margin. longer hairs on upper surface.

T.

CYNODON —

beautiful in flower, pink stamens, anthers on filaments as
stalk cream edged dark purple.

4 or 5 spikes.

red coating with red hairs up to 2"

rachis straight

spikelets single flattish, rather white.
appressed to the rachis.

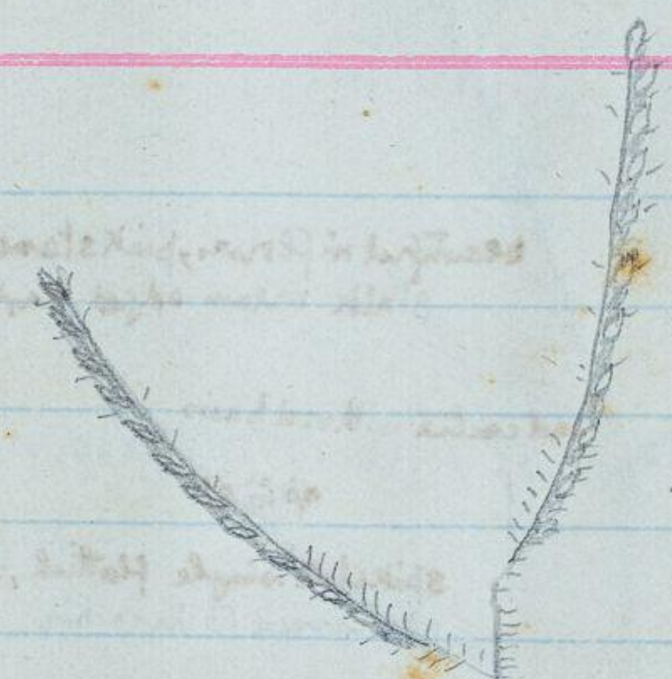
Up to 1 ft tall.

D. Nov.

D. Dr Vanachanken Lass + elsewhere (much taller than No 20.)

further down leaves up to 2¾" very narrow

62



stamens dark purple, anthers golden.

Usually 2 spikes occasionally 3.
spikelets all single, rachis ~~~

spikelet

Fine silver hairs.

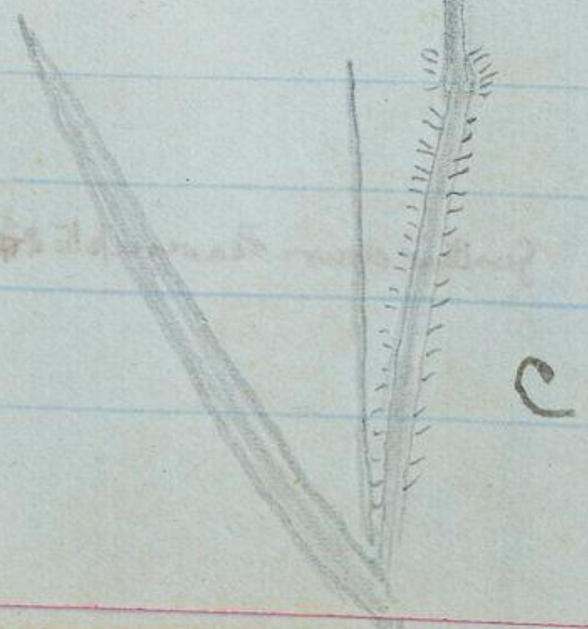
Main stem upto 1'8"

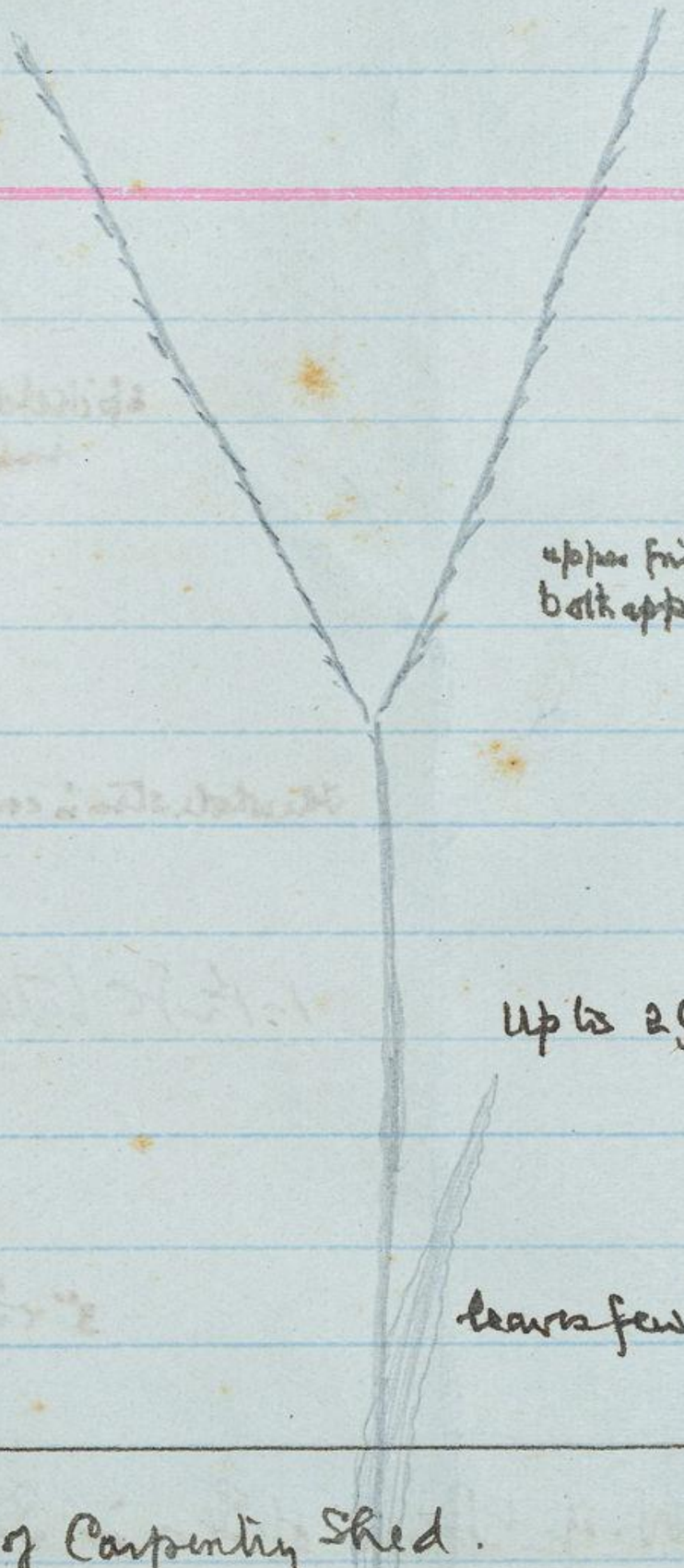
D. Nov.

D

V.C. Jhangla between walls E & SE. of Akbara Sarai.
Round. N of- room by entrance to Singara Vana

M





in seed

spikelet double lower glume
upper fringed with feathery white hair
both appressed to rachis.

Up to 2 ft 3".

leaves few + small

D. N.C., N of the E end of Carpentry Shed.

N

× ½.

64

PANICUM

very like Nolo (but the st is glabrous)

spikelets in pairs low down
single higher up branch.

spikelet
long ish.

The whole stem is covered with short silver hairs.

1-1½ ft tall

3" x ½" leaves large

V.C. Lane. W. of W end of Senior School between 3d & new.

PANICUM FLAVIDUM

The main rachis is grooved & the spikes lie along the groove
They are only attached at the bottom end, but lie flat along
the main rachis

When large the flowering rachis bends over & may
have 8-10 spikes upon it.

stamens dark purple, anther golden. In flower Nov.

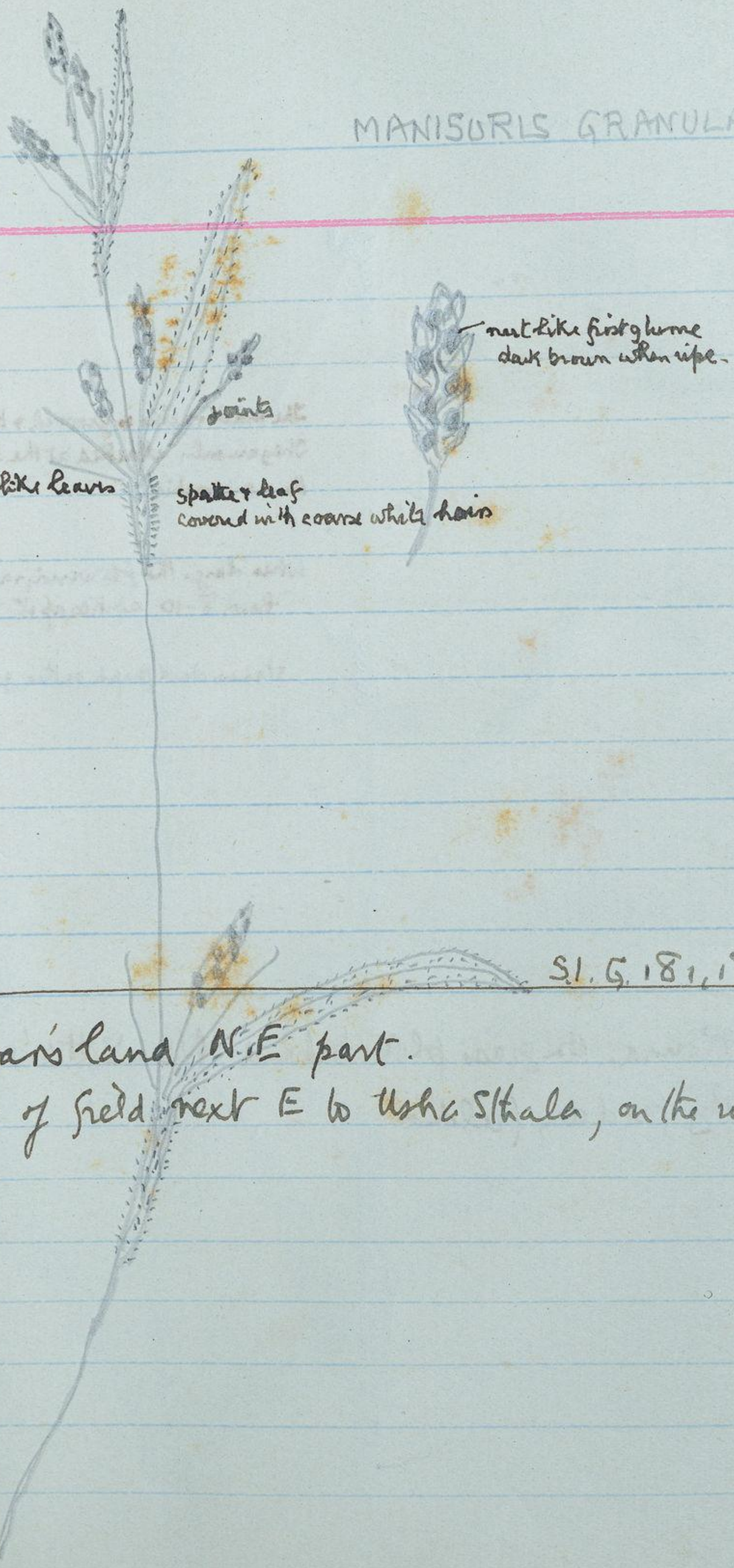
S.I.G. 68, 69

Round. On grass plot behind Nea Sittie's house.
By paddy fields

66

Andropogoneae

MANISURIS GRANULARIS



Sl. G. 181, 182.

D. & Thevar's land N.E part.

⊠ S. edge of field next E to Usha Sthala, on the road-edge