

COMUNICACIONES BOTANICAS DEL MUSEO DE HISTORIA NATURAL DE MONTEVIDEO

Número 39

1961

Volumen III

TWO NEW SPECIES OF DANTHONIA

JASON R. SWALLEN

The two species described below were collected in the most southern region of Brazil, south of Santa Victoria do Palmar, Rio Grande do Sul. They are both characterized by presence of rhizomes, which is uncommon in the genus *Danthonia*. They are very similar in general aspect but are well differentiated as shown in the following key.

Lemma ciliate on the margins in the lower half; pedicels slender, glabrous; blades slender, usually involute, 3-7 cm. long, as much as 1.2 mm. broad.

D. charruana

Lemma with two conspicuous tufts of hairs on the margins; pedicels relatively short, stout, densely hispid; blades flat, 7-12 cm. long, 1-3 mm. wide.

D. rhizomata

Danthonia charruana Swallen sp. nov.

Culmi erecti, 12-35 cm. alti, glabri; vaginae glabrae, in ore sparse longipilosae; laminae 3-7 cm. longae, usque ad 1.2 mm. latae, sparse longipilosae; panicula usque ad 4 cm. longa, 1-4-spiculata, ramis brevibus, gracilibus, glabris; spiculae purpureae, glumis subaequalibus, acuminatis, 12-16 mm. longis; lemma marginibus infra medium dense ciliatum, pilis usque ad 3 mm. longis, apice bifidum, dentibus 2 mm. longis, acuminatis, aristis 2-3 mm. longis; arista infra geniculam plana, torta, supra geniculam 12-16 mm. longa.

Perennial; culms slender, erect from short slender rhizomes, 12-25 cm. tall, glabrous; sheaths about as long as the internodes or a little shorter, glabrous, or with a few long hairs in the throat; ligule a dense line of hairs about 0.2-0.3 mm. long; blades 3-7 cm. long,

or the uppermost shorter, as much as 1.2 mm. wide, usually involute or loosely rolled, sparsely pilose with long, white hairs; panicles as much as 4 cm. long, composed of 1-4 spikelets, solitary or sometimes two on rather short, slender, glabrous, somewhat flexuous branches; spikelets purple or purple-tinged, the hairs of the lemma obscuring the florets; glumes almost equal, 12-16 mm. long, acuminate; lower floret 6-7 mm. long, not including the awns of the teeth, the callus bearded with ascending hairs 1.5-2 mm. long; lemma glabrous on the back, densely ciliate on the margins below the middle, the hairs as much as 3 mm. long, the apex deeply cleft, the teeth about 2 mm. long, acuminate, terminating in very slender awns 2-3 mm. long, awned from between the teeth, the awn flat, tightly twisted below, the terminal segment loosely twisted, 12-16 mm. long; palea slightly exceeding the base of the teeth, irregularly obtuse, minutely ciliate on the keels in the upper half.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium N^o 1,960,568, collected in moist place, Estancia Charrua, south of Santa Victoria do Palmar, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, November 17, 1945, by Jason R. Swallen (N^o 7414).

***Danthonia rhizomata* Swallen sp. nov.**

Culmi graciles, erecti, 35-45 cm. alti; vaginae sparse vel dense pilosae vel papilloso-pilosae; laminae planae, firmae, nervatae, papilloso-pilosae, supra dense pubescentes, 7-12 cm. longae, 1-3 mm. latae, suprema ca 1 cm. longa; panicula 1-4-spiculata; spiculae 4-7-florae, approximatae, brevipedicellatae, pedicellis dense hispidis; glumae 15-25 mm. longae, subattenuatae, 3-nerves; flos inferior 12 mm. longus, collo barbato pilis usque ad 4 mm. longis; lemma in dorso glabrum lucidum, marginibus 2-fasciculis pilorum instructis, apice bifidum dentibus attenuatis aristatis; arista plana, torta, geniculata, basi 0.5 mm. lata, supra geniculam 7-12 mm. longa.

Perennial; culms slender, erect, glabrous, 35-45 cm. tall, producing numerous slender rhizomes; sheaths shorter than the internodes, sparsely to densely pilose or papillose-pilose, with a conspicuous tuft of hairs in the throat; ligule very short, ciliate, the hairs as much as 1 mm. long; blades flat or loosely rolled, firm, strongly nerved, conspicuously papillose-pilose with spreading hairs 1-2 mm. long, densely pubescent on the upper surface as well, the lower ones 7-12 cm. long, 1-3 mm. wide, gradually shorter upward, the uppermost less than 1 cm. long, the culm blades stiffly erect; inflorescence composed of 1-4 appressed, short-pedicellate, approximate spikelets,

the pedicels densely appressed-hispid; spikelets tinged with purple, 4-7-flowered; glumes 15-25 mm. long, subattenuate, 3-nerved; lower florets about 12 mm. long, including the awned teeth and the callus (rachilla segment), the callus bearded, the hairs as much as 4 mm. long; lemma smooth and shining on the back, bearing two tufts of hairs on each margin, one near the base, the other just above the middle, the hairs somewhat spreading, as much as 2 mm. long, cleft to the middle, the teeth attenuate into slender awns, awned from between the teeth, the awn flat, 0.5 mm. wide at the base, twisted, geniculate, tapering above the bend to a slender point; palea a little exceeding the base of the awn, obtuse, rounded, the tip minutely ciliate, otherwise glabrous.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium N^o 1,960,567, collected on sandy campo, where it is rather common but scattered in small loose tufts, Santa Victoria do Palmar, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, November 15, 1945, by Jason R. Swallen (N^o 7364).

Additional material examined: Brazil: Rio Grande do Sul: Santa Victoria do Palmar, Swallen 7415. Uruguay: Departamento Maldonado: Cerro Pan de Azúcar, Rosengurt B-2691; Abra de Perdomo, Rosengurt B-5267. Departamento Lavalleja: Ladera pedregosa, pratense-arbustiva, Pororó, Rosengurt B-5320. Departamento Rocha: Escasa en pastizales pratenses, carretera del Aiguá, Rosengurt B-2327.