

POACEAE

NATURALIZED *AGROSTIS* IN SOUTH AFRICA: *AGROSTIS AVENACEA* AND *A. MONTEVIDENSIS*

During the last century a number of species of *Agrostis* has been accidentally or deliberately introduced into South Africa. Among these are *Agrostis gigantea* Roth, *A. semiverticillata* (Forsk.) Christens, *A. stolonifera* L. and *A. alba* L. Also introduced and now naturalized, but previously unrecorded, are *A. avenacea* Gmel. and *A. montevidensis* Spreng. The specimens cited below were examined at PRE and compared with authentic material at Kew.

1. *Agrostis avenacea* Gmel., Syst. Nat. Pl. 171 (1791); Vickery in Contrib. N.S.W. Nat. Herb. 1, 3: 112–114 (1941), see also for full synonymy.

This Australian species seems to be a recent introduction into South Africa, recorded by Acocks (in 1942) as being fairly frequent as a weed of cultivation at the Dohne Research Station (Acocks 9014). It was omitted by both Goossens and Papendorf in their revision of *Agrostis* (1945) and by Chippindall (1955).

A. avenacea may be confused with *A. eriantha*, from which it is distinguished by its annual habit, flat leaf blades, scabrous ligule and 4-nerved lemma. *A. eriantha* is perennial with folded leaf blades, hyaline ligule and 5-nerved lemma.

Specimens examined:

CAPE.—3225 (Somerset East): Bosberg (–DA), Van der Walt 398 (PRE). 3227 (Stutterheim): Dohne Research Station (–CB), Acocks 9014 (K). 3322 (Oudtshoorn): Wilderness (–DC), Mc

Callum Webster 77a (K). 3418 (Simonstown) Wynberg Hill (–AB), Salter 9065a, 9065 b (K).

2. *Agrostis montevidensis* Spreng. ex Nees, Agrost. Bras.: 403 (1829); Rosengurth, Arrippage de Maffei & Izaguirre de Artucio, Graminias Uraquayas 21 (1970).

The first PRE record of this South American grass in South Africa was made in 1955. It has since been collected in a naturalized state along roadsides throughout the wetter areas of the country. Compton 24965 from Ukutula in Swaziland belongs to this species, and is probably what Compton in the Flora of Swaziland (1976) refers to as *A. bergiana* Trin. In South America the plant is indigenous in Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, southern Brazil and Bolivia.

A. montevidensis may be confused with *A. bergiana*, but in *A. montevidensis* the panicle is more widely spreading with pedicels 20 mm long and the palea is absent. In *A. bergiana* the pedicels are 5–10 mm long and the palea is present.

Specimens examined:

TRANSVAAL.—2430 (Pilgrim's Rest): Pilgrim's Rest (–DD), du Toit 1128 (PRE). 2531 (Komatiport): Barberton-Pigg's Peak Border (–CC), Story 5438 (PRE).

NATAL.—2930 (Pietermaritzburg): Cedara (–CB), Wells 4482 (PRE).

CAPE.—3418 (Simonstown): Betty's Bay (–BD), Barker 10564 (PRE).

L. SMOOK & C. STIRTON