

## GRAMINEAE

### A NEW SPECIES OF ARISTIDA FROM SOUTH WEST AFRICA

***Aristida dewinteri*** Giess, sp. nov., *A. stipoidi* Lam. affinis, sed gluma inferiore brevior apice rotundo tenuiter fimbriato, glumis superioribus et interioribus flavis apice macula nigra praedito differt.

*Gramen* annum, ad 1 m altum. *Culmi* simplices, nodis 2-3, recti vel subgeniculati. *Panicula* diffusa. *Spiculae* pallidae, sed glumae apice macula nigra praeditae. *Glumae* valde inaequales, 1-nervatae, subcoriaceae; inferior 3.5-4.0 mm longa, late oblonga, apice obtuso rotundato fimbriato; superior 10-11 mm longa, lanceolata, apice plus minusve acuto membranaceo fimbriato vel sublacerato. *Lemma* 3-nervatum, cylindricum, coriaceum, in dimidio inferiore glabrum superne scabridum, 7-8 mm longum (callo incluso), inter apicem lemmatis et basin columnae articulatum; columna 1.3-1.4 mm longa, tortilis, scabrida; aristae 3, scabridae; centralis laterales excedens, c. 3.5 cm longa; laterales c. 2.5 cm longae; callus c. 1 mm longus, manifeste bifidus, dense retrorse setosus setis basin versus brevioribus. *Palea* 0.7 mm longa, subcoriacea, late oblonga, nervis hyalina, rotundata. *Lodiculae* magnae, 1-1.25 mm. longae, ovatae, tenuiter membranaceae, apice rotundato; nervi 7-9, distincti. *Stamina* 3; antherae cultratae, 3 mm longae, pallide luteae. *Caryopsis* linearis, 3-3.5 mm longa; hilum lineare caryopsidem aequans (embryo indistinctus ob caryopsides immaturas).

Type: South West Africa, Kaokoveld (Grid 1613, Uncocua), 18 miles west of Enyandi, Giess 9345 (PRE, holo.; K; M; WIND; US).

*Annual* forming erect tufts up to 1 m high. *Culms* simple, 2-3-noded, straight or somewhat geniculate, nodes and lower internodes usually purple, glabrous, very finely striate. *Leaf-sheath* shorter than the internodes, rather lax, often striate particularly upwards, with a flake of wool at the mouth. *Collar* smooth, usually purplish. *Ligule* a dense fringe of long woolly hair. *Panicle* effuse and open, pallid, up to 30 cm long and 15 cm wide. *Spikelets* pallid, glabrous, the glumes each with a black spot at the apex. *Glumes* very unequal, 1-nerved, firm and thick in texture; lower 3.5-4.0 mm long, broadly oblong, apex obtuse and rounded, fimbriate; upper 10-11 mm long, lanceolate, apex more or less acute, thin, membranous. *Lemma* 3-nerved, cylindrical, coriaceous, scabrid in the upper half,

otherwise glabrous, 7-8 mm long (callus included), articulated between the apex of the lemma and the base of the column; column up to 2.2 cm long, twisted, scabrid; awns 3, scabrid; central awn exceeding the others in length, about 3.5 cm long; lateral awns about 2.5 cm long; callus about 1 mm long, distinctly bifid, densely retrorsely bristly, the bristles diminishing in length towards the base. *Palea* 0.75 mm long, subcoriaceous, broadly oblong, nerveless, apex hyaline, rounded. *Lodicules* large, 1-1.25 mm long, ovate, thinly membranous, apex rounded; nerves 7-9 in number, distinct. *Stamens* 3; anthers cultrate, 3 mm long, pale yellow. *Caryopsis* linear tapering to an acute apex, 3-3.5 mm long. *Hilum* linear, as long as the grain. *Embryo* (indistinct due to immature grains).

This species has so far been found only along the Kunene River between the Epupa Falls and Enyandi in the Kaokoveld of north-western South West Africa. It often occurs in pure stands and is then conspicuous due to the bright yellow inflorescences. This species is named in honour of Dr Bernard de Winter for his contributions to the study of South West African plants.

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