

A NEW SPECIES OF ERAGROSTIS

Eragrostis moggii *De Winter*, sp. nov., *E. glandulosipedatae* *De Winter* affinis, sed spiculis minoribus et angustioribus lemmatum nervis conspicuis differt.

Gramen perenne, decumbens vel suberectum (rare erectum). *Culmi* geniculati, 3-multinodosi, multiramosi, saepe fasciculati, ad 90 cm longi, glabri, saepe purpurascenti. *Vaginae* laxae, glabrae, marginibus pilosis, carinis costisque glanduloso-punctatis. *Ligula* dense ciliata. *Laminae* planae vel involutae, infra glabrae supra minute scabridae. *Panicula* angusta, plus minusve contracta vel patens, ramis solitariis vel binis. *Spiculae* plumbeae, distincte pedicellatae, 4–11-florae, 3–7 mm longae, 1–1.5 mm latae; pedicelli glande annulari instructi. *Glumae* subequales vel nonnihil inaequales purpurascens, ovaes, apice obtusae vel subtruncatae, 1-nervatae, carinis scabridiusculis. *Lemmata* subcoriacea, nitida, late ovata, obtusa, ca 1.5 mm longa, 1.0 mm lata, nervis 3 conspicuis. *Paleae* anguste ovato-ellipticae, 1.3–1.4 mm longae, bicarinatae, truncatae, membranaceae. *Lodiculae* 2, carnosae, cuneiformes. *Stamina* 3, antheris anguste oblongis ca 0.7 mm longis. *Ovarium* oblongum, stylis 2. *Caryopsis* nonnihil lateraliter compressa, apice et basi subtruncata, opaca, nonnihil rugosa, ca 6 cm longa.

Type: Mocambique, Inhaca Island, *Mogg* 26816 (PRE, holo.; K, SRGH).

Perennial up to 90 cm high (usually 30–40 cm), decumbent, geniculate-ascending, or erect. *Culms* somewhat branched to much-branched and occasionally fascicled from the nodes, rarely prostrate and rooting from the nodes which bear dense fascicles of culms, few- to many-noded, internodes glabrous and smooth, flushed with purple or pallid, easily compressed. *Leaf-sheaths* usually shorter than the internodes, lax and slipping from the culms leaving them bare, glabrous except for the ciliate margins, somewhat striate, with glands on the ribs upwards, often purplish. *Collar* conspicuous, yellowish, glabrous or hairy on the back, the auricles conspicuously bearded. *Ligule* long ciliate. *Lecf-blades* expanded or rolled, up to 3 mm wide, up to 20 cm long,

tapering to a fine point, glabrous and smooth below, finely ribbed above with the ribs minutely scaberulous. *Panicle* narrow and contracted to effuse and open, branches single or paired, stiff, glabrous, finely ribbed. *Pedicels* of the spikelets slender, stiff, furnished with a distinct annular gland. *Spikelets* lead-coloured (rarely pallid), narrowly oblong, 4–7 mm long and 1.0–1.5 mm wide, 4–13-flowered, rhachilla not disarticulating the lemmas deciduous, the paleas remaining attached to the rhachilla. *Florets* hermaphrodite. *Glumes* 1-nerved, subequal or somewhat unequal, broadly ovate-oblong, obtuse, finely scaberulous on the keels, subcoriaceous, usually distinctly purplish. *Lemmas* about 1.5 mm long and about 1.0 mm wide, broadly elliptic-ovate in outline, very finely scabridulous, 3-nerved, nerves prominent, apex obtuse to subtruncate. *Palea* equalling the lemma or slightly shorter, membranous, subhyaline, bicarinate, margins inflexed, keels scaberulous. *Lodicules* truncate, cuneate, somewhat fleshy, small. *Stamens* 3; anthers about 0.7 mm long, cultrate, pale yellow. *Ovary* glabrous; styles free; stigmas 2, plumose. *Caryopsis* somewhat laterally compressed, apex and base subtruncate giving it a nearly square outline seen in side view, smooth, whitish-opaque; embryo half to slightly less than half the length of the grain, brownish; hilum punctiform, basal.

Two varieties can be distinguished.

Inflorescence effuse and open, the branches and branchlets spreading..... var. *moggii*
 Inflorescence narrow and contracted the branches appressed to the rhachis..... var. *contracta*

var. *moggii*.

Inflorescence effuse and open, the branches and branchlets spreading.

Occurs in Mozambique particularly in the vicinity of Lourenço Marques and islands off the coast. It has also been collected in northern Zululand. It prefers sandy soils and often occurs in open forest.

SOUTH AFRICA. NATAL.—Ubombo: Mtenzi Game Reserve, Tinley 596.

MOZAMBIQUE. SUL DO SAVE.—Lourenço Marques: Costa da Sol, Balsinhas 261; Myre 864; Inhaca Island, Mogg 27205; 26816; 29354; 26870 (pro parte); 26746 (J); Gillard J. 34664 (J); Weintraub J. 20469 (J); Mauve & Verdoorn 103; Bazaruto Island, Mogg 28512 (J); Masinga, Schlechter 12127.

MAPUTO.—Catuane, Myre & Balsinhas 585.

INHAMBANE.—Inharrime, De Lomos & Balsinhas 174; Velho, Gomes e Sousa 2136.

var. *contracta* De Winter, var. nov., inflorescentia angusta contracta, rami ramulique rhachi adpressi.

Type: Mozambique, Inhaca Island, Mogg 26947 (PRE, holo.; K).

This variety has been recorded from the vicinity of Lourenço Marques and has the same ecological preferences as the typical variety.

MOZAMBIQUE. SUL DO SAVE.—Lourenço Marques: between Lourenço Marques and Costa da Sol, Schweickhardt 1910; Inhaca Island, Mogg 26870 (pro parte); 26947; 26870; 29362; 27571; 30069 (J); 30119 (J).

The two varieties often occur together and one collection, Mogg 26870, consisted of specimens bearing either narrow and contracted or divaricate open inflorescences. So far the species has been collected mainly in the surroundings of Lourenço Marques. The Zululand specimen is the only record from South Africa and shows that the species is probably much more widely spread than the present records indicate.

This species seems to be allied to *E. glandulosipedata* de Winter, with which it agrees in the annular glands on the pedicels, the glands on the leaf-sheaths and the general configuration of the spikelets. It is, however, smaller in all the parts of the

spikelet and very easily distinguished. *E. moggii* could be confused with *E. lehmanniana* which it resembles generally in habit but the latter has no glands on the pedicels and the nerves of the lemmas are not as prominent nor are the glumes purplish.