

## Notes and New Records of African Plants

### GRAMINEAE

**Andropogon lacunosus** *J. G. Anderson*, sp. nov., *A. pratensi* Hochst. ex Hack. affinis, sed flore superiore spicularum sessilium staminibus ad staminodia redactis, spiculis pedicellatis 8–9 mm longis, gluma inferiore spicularum pedicellarum 11-nervata in medio nervis 3 in marginibus utrinque 4, glumis inferioribus spicularum sessilium et pedicellarum dorsaliter lacunis inconditis differt.

Gramen perenne caespitosum ad 60 cm altum rhizomate brevi. *Culmi* erecti. *Folia* ad 20 cm longa 5 mm lata sparse ad dense pilosa pilis e tuberculis minutis ortis. *Vaginae* pilosae vel villosae pilis e tuberculis minutis ortis; ligula membranacea ciliolata. *Racemi* 2–3 spiciformes ad 7 cm longi. *Spiculae sessiles* staminibus ad staminodia redactis. Gluma inferior circiter 8 mm longa 7–9 nervata canaliculata utrinque canalis lacunis 5–8 inconditis dispositis. Gluma superior circiter 6 mm longa 3-nervata nervo medio distincto et in setam scabridum 1–3 mm longam producto nervis obscuris. Flos inferior 5 mm longum lemma redactus. Flos superior bisexualis, staminibus ad staminodia redactis, palea nulla. *Spiculae pedicellatae* 8–9 mm longae. Gluma inferiore 11-nervata in medio nervis 3 in marginibus utrinque 4 canalibus 2 et dorsalites lacunis 5–12 inconditis brevibus. Gluma superior circiter 8 mm longa 3–5 nervata. Flos inferior lemma ad 7 mm longum redactus, palea nulla. Flos superior masculinus lemmate circiter 4–5 mm longo palea nulla. *Antherae* ad 4 mm longae.

TRANSVAAL.—Groblersdal: 28½ miles north-east by east of Groblersdal, *Acocks* 20908. Belfast: Dullstroom, vlei or stream above Suikerboskop, *Hector* s.n. Lydenburg: 15 miles west of Sabie, c. 6,800 ft., *Codd* 6441. Ermelo: Athole Pasture Research Station, c. 5,800 ft., *Norval* 8, 122; *Gericke* A49 (PRE, holo.).

Perennial, caespitose with a short rhizome, up to 60 cm tall. *Culms* erect, slender, glabrous, striate, often grooved, terete or the basal internodes slightly compressed, 2–4 noded; nodes glabrous. *Leaves* expanded, up to 20 cm long and 5 mm wide, narrowed towards the base and tapering to an acute apex, broadest at about the middle, 7-nerved with the midnerve prominent abaxially, sparsely to densely pilose with bulbous-based hairs on both surfaces but especially on the lower surface, margins scaberulous; sheaths with a prominent midnerve, pilose to villous with bulbous-based hairs between the nerves, often densely pilose near the ligule, basal sheaths often tinged with purple; ligules membranous, ciliolate, truncate, up to 1 mm long. *Inflorescence* of 2–3 spike-like racemes; rhachis up to 18 mm long, pubescent; racemes up to 7 cm long. *Spikelets* light green or suffused with purple, paired, lower sessile, upper pedicelled; pedicels linear, 3–4.5 mm long, margins pubescent. *Sessile spikelets* 6–8 mm long, linear. Glumes unequal; lower about 8 mm long, narrowly lanceolate, deeply grooved on the back, the groove densely pilose in the lower third, and with 5–8 variably shaped, shallow pits on both sides of the groove, chartaceous, 7–9 nerved, keeled with the keels narrowly winged, ciliate in the upper half, apex obscurely bifid; upper about 6 mm long, narrowly boat-shaped, thinly membranous, 3-nerved with the midnerve distinct and produced into a 1–3 mm long scabrid bristle, lateral nerves obscure, margins narrowly winged upwards, wings pilose along the margins, apex obtuse. Lower floret reduced to the approximately 5 mm long lemma; lemma lanceolate, hyaline, nerveless, margins inrolled and pilose in the upper half, apex obscurely bifid, palea absent. Upper floret bisexual with the stamens reduced to staminodes; lemma about 5 mm long, linear, nerveless, hyaline, lobed to about the middle, lobes acute, pilose along the

margins in the upper half, awned from between the lobes; awn slender, 10–15 mm long; palea absent. *Pedicelled spikelets* 8–9 mm long, lanceolate. Glumes unequal; lower 8–9 mm long, lanceolate, chartaceous, keeled, keels and margins pilose, 11-nerved with the nerves grouped together, one group of 3 in the middle and 2 marginal groups of 4 each, with 2 grooves and 5–12 variably shaped, shallow pits on the back, midnerve excurrent into a very short bristle or apex acute; upper about 8 mm long, lanceolate, membranous, 3–5-nerved, obscurely winged, pilose along the margins, apex acuminate. Lower floret reduced to the 7 mm long lemma; lemma hyaline, obscurely 2-nerved, pilose along the margins; palea absent. Upper floret male; lemma about 4.5 mm long, hyaline, nerveless, pilose along the margins, apex emarginate; palea absent. *Anthers* linear, up to 4 mm long.

*Andropogon lacunosus* is apparently a rare species which has so far been found only in the north-eastern and eastern Transvaal where it occurs in vleis and near streams, usually in sandy soils, at altitudes ranging between 4,700–6,800 ft. It is allied to *Andropogon pratensis* Hochst. ex Hack., recorded from the Nile land and central east Africa also at high altitudes (7,200–9,300 ft.). Mr de Winter, when comparing *A. lacunosus* with other species of *Andropogon* at Kew found that it is unique in the genus because of the shallow, variably shaped pits on the lower glumes of both the sessile and pedicelled spikelets.