

Two new *Eragrostis* taxa (Gramineae)

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Two new *Eragrostis* taxa (*Gramineae*)

Abstract

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Eragrostis rivalis, a riverside and coastal plant from the southwestern part of the former USSR, up to now wrongly identified with the Saharian *E. aegyptiaca*, is described as a species new to science. In desert regions of NE Africa *E. aegyptiaca* comprises two taxa, *E. aegyptiaca* subsp. *aegyptiaca* and subsp. *humifusa*; the latter subspecies is described as new to science.

1. *Eragrostis rivalis* H. Scholz, **sp. nova** – Fig. 1.

Holotypus: [Byelorussia], na piaszczystych brzegach Dniepru w Łojowie, w pow. Rzeczyckim gub. Mińskiej dość rzadka, [sandy beaches of the Dnjepr river, Łwojow, distr. Rieczcko gov. Minsk], 7./8.1892, *J. Paczowski s. n. (R. et W. Flora polonica exs. 91, “Agrostis aegyptiaca”)* (B). [= *E. aegyptiaca* auct., non (Willd.) Delile (1814): Tzvelev, Zlaki SSSR: 633. 1976; Lavrenko, Fl. URSR 2: 210. 1940, etc.]

Affinis *Eragrosti aegyptiacae* (Willd.) Delile, ab eadem differt ramis infimis paniculae singulis vel binis basim nudis (nec semiverticillatis necque basim dense spiculatis) atque pedicellis spicularum longioribus (1–)2–4 (nec 0.5–2) mm longis et lemmatibus apice acutiusculioribus.

Habitat ripas fluminis Dnjepr Belorossiae et Ucrainae fluminisque Don Rossiae australis et litoros Ponti Euxini septentrionalis (Roževic 1934, Lavrenko 1940, Tzvelev 1976).

Eragrostis aegyptiaca (Willd.) Delile is commonly regarded as a true desert plant being “endemic to Egypt” (Cope & Hosni 1991: 42), sometimes observed (as a casual?) in neighbouring countries (see Täckholm & Täckholm 1941) and westwards to N Niger (27.3.1980, *E. Boudouresque H5647*, B!), but it is also reported to occur in far remote NE European countries (constituting an exclave in the former USSR to across of the 52° N; e.g. Tzvelev 1976), where it has been known since the first half of the 19th century (Ledebour 1853). This distribution pattern contradicts any experiences in plant geography, and indeed, morphological analyses of plants from both areas revealed some differences as pointed out in the above diagnosis, reason enough to recognize two species each of them indigeneous in separate areas: *E. aegyptiaca* (several specimens in B!, incl. the type from Egypt, “ex insulis Nili arenosis”, *Delile s. n.*, B-W 1918/3!) and *E. rivalis* H. Scholz (etymology: the species rivals *E. aegyptiaca* in acceptance).

Specimen aliud visum

UCRAINA (UKRAINE): An sandigem Alluvium des Dniepr bei Kiew, ca. 88 m, 21.9.1902, *N. Zinger s. n. (A. Kneucker Gram. exs. 504)* (B).

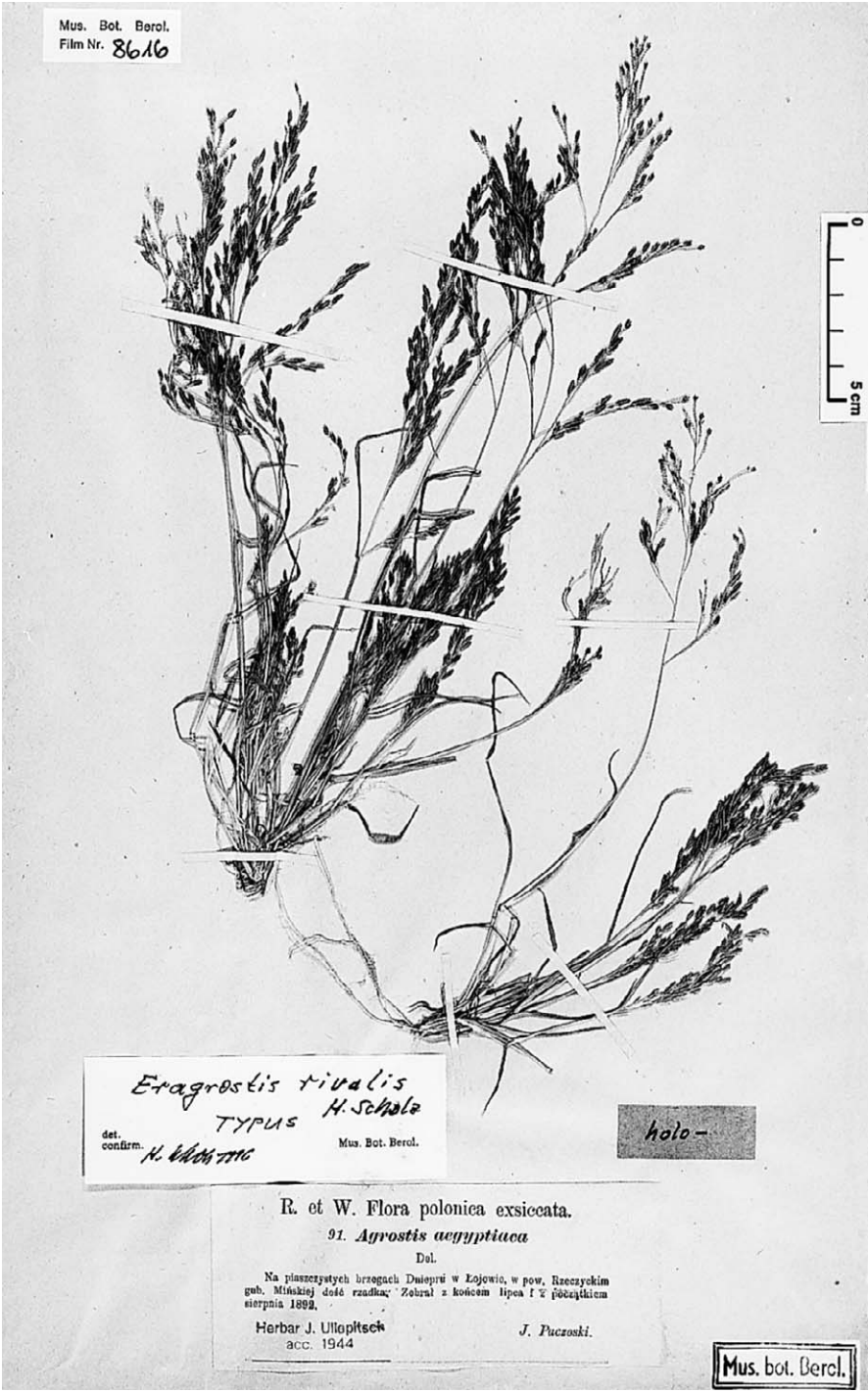


Fig. 1. *Eragrostis rivalis* H. Scholz – holotype specimen at B.

2. *Eragrostis aegyptiaca* (Willd.) Delile subsp. *humifusa* H. Scholz, subsp. nova – Fig. 2.

Holotypus: Sudan, Djebel Uweinat, Karkur Murr, gorge de grès près d'une mare natronée, 710 m, 11.11.1968, J. Léonard 4859 (BR; Isotypus: B).

Ab *Eragrostis aegyptiaca* subsp. *aegyptiaca* culmis brevioribus 1–5 cm (nec 10–60 cm) longis ± dense compactis et multiramosis, prostratis, raro erectis, ramis paniculae et pedicellis laevibus glabrisque (nec scabris) ac spiculis (3–)5–12(–14)-floribus (2–)4–5(–6) mm longis diversa est.

Habitat Saharae deserta boreo-orientalia altitudine ad 1300 m.

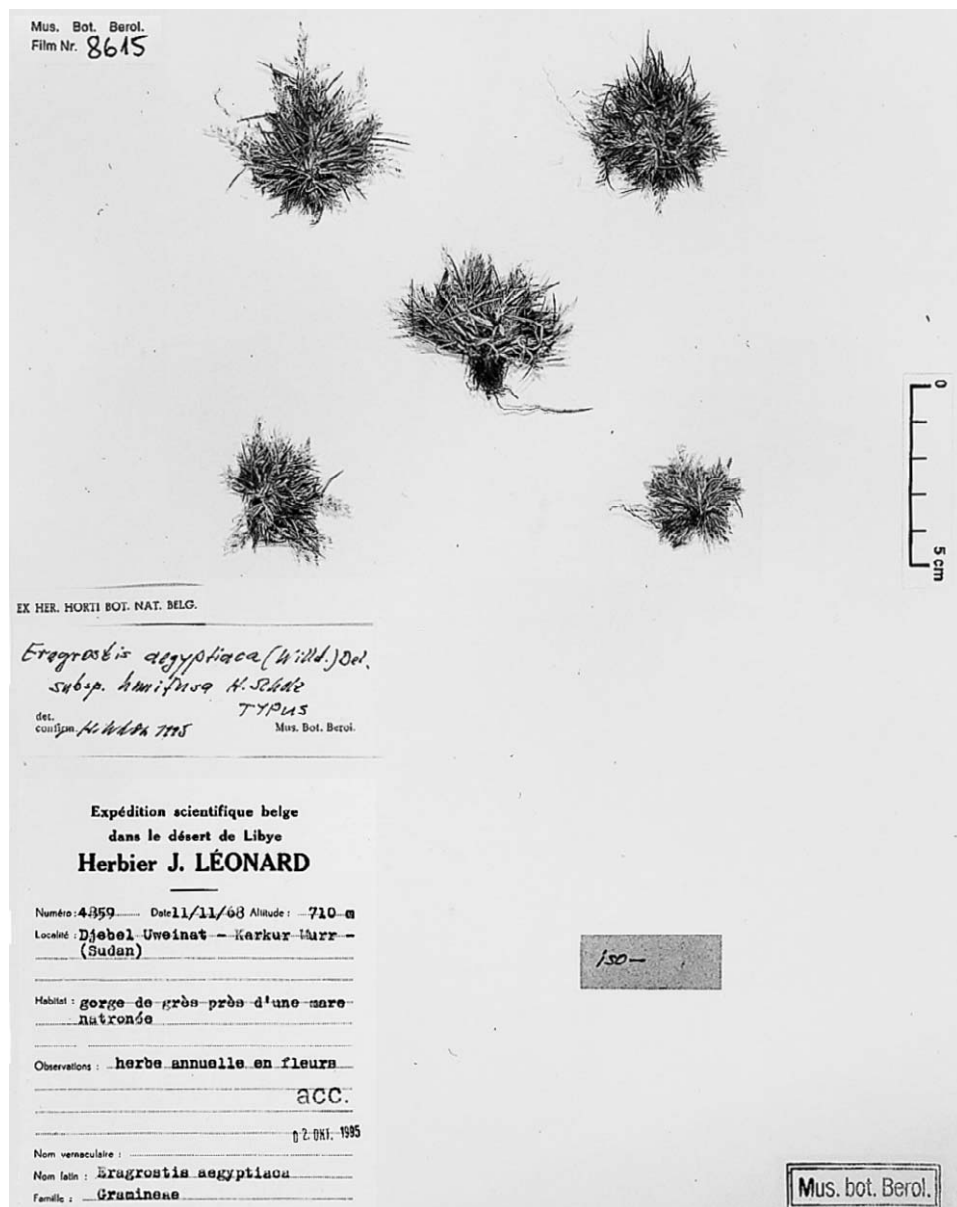


Fig. 2. *Eragrostis aegyptiaca* subsp. *humifusa* H. Scholz – isotype specimen at B.

This taxon was noticed previously, but without nomenclatural recognition. Täckholm & Täckholm (1941: 192; also Täckholm 1974: 691) write on *Eragrostis aegyptiaca*: “Occurs in two forms, either with erect, rather tall culms and large, open panicle or with prostrate culms and small, dense, contracted panicle. The last form looks like *Schismus*.”

Specimina alia visa

SUDAN: Djebel Uweinat, plage d’argile dans un oued sur grès débouchant dans le Karkur Tahl, 4. 11.1968, *J. Léonard* 4832 (B, BR); *ibid.*, 2ème source dès l’aval, sur sable humide, 700 m, 23.12.1968, *J. Léonard* 5004 (B, BR cum *E. ciliaris*); *ibid.*, wadi Wahesh, gorge de grès, plage d’argile, 920 m, 28.11.1968, *J. Léonard* 4906 (B, BR); *ibid.*, plateau dominant Karkur Tahl, ouadi Tahl, sable avec grès, sur plage vase desséchée, 1230 m, 28.12.1968, *J. Léonard* 5022 (B, BR); *ibid.*, plateaux gréseux, plage argilo-sablonneuse où l’eau a stagné, 1260 m, 29.12.1968, *J. Léonard* 5026 (B, BR).

Tab. 1. Main diagnostic features of *Eragrostis rivalis*, *E. aegyptiaca* subsp. *aegyptiaca* and subsp. *humifusa*

	<i>E. rivalis</i>	<i>E. aegyptiaca</i> subsp. <i>aegyptiaca</i>	<i>E. aegyptiaca</i> subsp. <i>humifusa</i>
Culms	erect solitary or fascicled	erect solitary or fascicled	prostrate tufted
Panicles	rather loose	rather dense	compact
Lower panicle branches	1–2 naked below	several, whorled spiculated below	several, whorled spiculated below
Pedicel of spikelet	1–4 mm long scabrous	0.5–2 mm long scabrous	0.5–1 mm long smooth
Spikelet length [mm]	5–10	5–10	2–6
Apex of lemma	acute	subacute	subacute

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