

NOMENCLATURAL CHANGE IN THE *DIGITARIA COGNATA* COMPLEX (POACEAE: PANICEAE)

Joseph K. Wipff

Herbarium
Pure Seed Testing, Inc.
P.O. Box 449
Hubbard, OR 97032 U.S.A.

ABSTRACT

Digitaria pubiflora is raised to specific rank.

RESUMEN

Digitaria pubiflora se eleva al rango específico.

During the preparation of *Digitaria* A. Haller for the *Manual of Grasses for North America* and after a reevaluation of the subspecies of *D. cognata* (Schult.) Pilger, it was concluded that the elevation of *Digitaria cognata* subsp. *pubiflora* (Vasey) Wipff to specific rank was warranted.

Wipff and Hatch (1994) recognized two subspecies of *D. cognata*, but a reevaluation of these taxa using principal components analysis showed the two taxa to be distinct and easily distinguished from one another. The key morphological characters separating the two taxa are: 1) the number of veins; 2) venation pattern (equidistant vs. non-equidistant veins); 3) the vestiture pattern of the lower lemmas; and 4) spikelet shape. Also, in the area of sympatry the two taxa maintain their morphological distinctness and no putative hybrids between the two taxa were found in the populations studied or from the 1,839 herbarium specimens examined. A future paper will discuss the data warranting the following new combination, which is made now for its use in the forthcoming *Manual of Grasses for North America*.

Digitaria pubiflora (Vasey) Wipff, comb. et stat. nov. BASIONYM: *Panicum autumnale* Bosc ex Sprengel var. *pubiflorum* Vasey, [Descr. Cat. Grasses US: 9. 1885. nom. nud.] Dept. Agric. Bot. Div. Bull. 8:35. 1889. *Digitaria cognata* (Schult.) Pilger subsp. *pubiflora* (Vasey) Wipff, Sida 13:120. 1988. TYPE: UNITED STATES. TEXAS. El Paso Co.: "Mts. near Paso del Norte," May 1881, G.R. Vasey s.n. (LECTOTYPE: Wipff & Hatch 1994: US!; ISOLECTOTYPE: US!).

KEY TO TAXA

- Lower lemmas 7-veined, veins non-equidistant; spikelets glabrous or with a narrow strip of pubescence between the veins; spikelets obovoid to broadly elliptic _____ **2. *D. cognata***
Lower lemmas 5-veined, veins equidistant; spikelets densely pubescent between the veins; spikelets narrowly elliptic _____ **3. *D. pubiflora***

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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REFERENCES

- WIPFF, J.K. and S.L. HATCH. 1994. A systematic study of *Digitaria* sect. *Pennatae* (Poaceae: Paniceae) in the New World. Syst. Bot. 19:613–627.



Wipff, J. K. 2001. "NOMENCLATURAL CHANGE IN THE DIGITARIA COGNATA COMPLEX (POACEAE: PANICEAE)." *SIDA, contributions to botany* 19, 923–924.

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