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Nomenclature and typification of *Agrostis durieui* Boiss. & Reut. ex Gand. (Gramineae)

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ABSTRACT

CASTROVIEJO, S. & A. CHARPIN (1999). Nomenclature and typification of *Agrostis durieui* Boiss. & Reut. ex Gand. (Gramineae). *Candollea* 54: 473-478. In English, English and French abstracts.

The history and the nomenclature of the binomial *Agrostis durieui* (Gramineae) are discussed. The authors conclude that this name was validated by M. Gandoger in 1896. A previously proposed typification of *A. durieui*, based on Willkomm's description, is rejected.

RÉSUMÉ

CASTROVIEJO, S. & A. CHARPIN (1999). Nomenclature et typification d'*Agrostis durieui* Boiss. & Reut. ex Gand. (Gramineae). *Candollea* 54: 473-478. En anglais, résumés anglais et français.

L'histoire et la nomenclature du binôme *Agrostis durieui* (Gramineae) sont discutées. Ce binôme a été validé par M. Gandoger en 1896. Une typification de *A. durieui*, fondée sur la description de Willkomm, est rejetée.

KEW-WORDS: GRAMINEAE – *Agrostis* – Spain.

Introduction

Although the history of the binomial *Agrostis durieui* or “duriaei” has been repeatedly explained (KERGUÉLEN & VIVANT, 1975; CASTROVIEJO & CHARPIN, 1983; ROMERO GARCÍA & BLANCA, 1986; KERGUÉLEN, 1987), the name is still used inconsistently. Even its typification is the result of a misinterpretation of the ICBN.

ROMERO GARCÍA & BLANCA (1986), in their monograph of *Agrostis* from the Iberian Peninsula accepted three different species in the subgen. *Zingrostis* Romero García & Blanca: *A. truncatula* Parl., *A. reuteri* Boiss. and *A. nebulosa* Boiss. & Reut. Within *A. truncatula* these

authors recognised two subspecies: subsp. *truncatula* and subsp. *commista* Castrov. & Charpin (CASTROVIEJO & CHARPIN, 1983: 676). *Agrostis truncatula* subsp. *commista* is used here in the sense explained elsewhere (CASTROVIEJO & CHARPIN, 1983).

Nomenclature

The plant collected by Durieu was distributed as “*A. capillaris* L.”, with the number 173 (not 175 as wrongly stated by many authors), and is labelled: “Durieu Pl. select. Hispano-Lusit. Sect. 1 *Asturiae anno 1835 collecta ... Hab. in Asturiis, frequens usque ad summo jugo occid. Peñafior, 16 Jun.*” It was called *A. durieui* for the first time by LERESCHE & LEVIER (1880: 78), taking the name from Boissier and Reuter who realised that it was neither *A. capillaris* nor *A. truncatula* Parl. from the Spanish Sistema Central (cf. CASTROVIEJO & CHARPIN, 1983: 675). After that, NYMAN (1882: 802) and RICHTER (1890: 47) used the same epithet, both at the subspecific rank. In all those cases, the names were unfortunately published without any description, so they were *nomina nuda*.

Many authors, and more recently ROMERO GARCÍA & BLANCA (1986), believed that the name was validly published by WILLKOMM in his *Supplementum Prodromi...* (1893: 15). These authors thought that Willkomm's intention was to publish a new species, which he had mistakenly called *A. capillaris* L. in vol. I of the same *Prodromus* (WILLKOMM, 1861: 55). The following arguments ought to be applied to this proposal:

- a) Although Willkomm changed the typography of the name in his *Supplementum Prodromi...*, it is clear that he did not print it with the type face (bold-face) he used for the names he wished to introduce or to validate, such as *Evax cavanillesii* Rouy – replacing *E. exigua* (1893: 79) –, *Saxifraga willkommiana* Boiss. – replacing *S. pentadactylis* (1893: 208) –, *Saxifraga dichotoma* Willd. ap. Sternb. – replacing *S. atlantica* (1893: 211) –, etc. The index of that work also supports this assumption: *Agrostis durieui* and *Saxifraga arundana* are not in italics, but *Evax cavanillesii* and *Saxifraga willkommiana* are. WILLKOMM (1893: 334) himself explained clearly the meaning of italic face: “Littera cursiva notat species et varietates novas aut in Prodromo florum hispanicae nondum descriptas”. We can say that Willkomm, in his *Supplementum Prodromi*, is relaying Cosson's opinion. But he did not necessarily agree with it and, as a consequence, he did not intend to publish the name of a new species. It must also be remembered that according to Article 34.1 of the ICBN: “A name is not validly published (a) when it is not accepted by the author in the original publication;...” A similar case arises on page 211 of the same *Supplementum*, in which Willkomm accepts *Saxifraga carpetana* with a note indicating two different opinions: Boissier believed it to be *S. hispanica* Coss., and Engler believed it to be Boiss. & Reut. In conclusion, we consider that *Agrostis durieui* is not validly published by Willkomm.
- b) If accepted, *A. durieui* would have been validated on page 15 of the *Supplementum* (WILLKOMM, 1893) with a reference to a previously published description (WILLKOMM, 1861: 55). Actually what is described there is by no means the plant which is nowadays known as *Agrostis durieui*, but some specimens from Alcaraz, collected by Funk and Bourgeau, and some others from Aragón collected by Willkomm himself. Willkomm did not know Asturian, Cantabrian or Western Pyrenean plants; he obtained records of these areas from the literature. Furthermore he did not place an exclamation mark (!) after the citation of the exsiccata that would have denoted he had studied them. It is therefore clear that the description he made of “*Agrostis capillaris* L.” cannot be, even partially, applied to the plant from north and northwestern Spain.

GANDOGGER (1896: 210), in a paper on the plants he collected in northern Spain, describes one he calls “*Agrostis durieui*”. He publishes the name, provides a description and indicates a type (the plant collected by himself, not that by Durieu). Actually he is validating the name, even when he wants only to describe a variety of an already described species.

MERINO (1904: 186; 1909: 275) describes again the same plant (he writes “*Agrostis Durieui* Bss. et Reut.”), but, from a nomenclatural point of view, this is unnecessary.

If we agree with the monographers (ROMERO GARCÍA & BLANCA, 1988: 141), that our taxon is better treated at the subspecific level, we have to accept the combination proposed by ASCHERSON & GRAEBNER (1899: 193) – *A. truncatula* subsp. *durieui* (Gand.) Asch. & Graeb. –, which gives priority to this epithet at the subspecific rank. As a consequence, our proposal of a new subspecific name with a new type (CASTROVIEJO & CHARPIN, 1983) is superfluous.

At the varietal rank, we have to use the same epithet *durieui* published by HENRIQUES (1905) as *A. truncatula* var. *durieui*, nine years after Gandoger, but without any mention of him. This varietal name could be considered as a new taxon – with its own type – or as a combination of Gandoger’s specific epithet. In our opinion Henriques combined an already published specific name at the varietal rank, as he made an indirect reference to the type through the citation of Boissier & Reuter and Nyman. Anyway if the first interpretation is chosen – *A. durieui* Gand. 1896 independent from *A. truncatula* var. *durieui* Henriq. 1905 – the name would be a *nomen illegitimum*, in accordance with ICBN, Art. 53.5, because, as we have seen, the subspecific rank is already occupied by an homonym with a different type.

As a consequence, the first valid names for our taxon are, at different ranks:

Agrostis durieui Boiss. & Reut. ex Gand. in Bull. Soc. Bot. France 43: 210. 1896.

≡ *A. truncatula* subsp. *durieui* (Gand.) Asch. & Graeb., Syn. Mitteleur. Fl. 2(1): 193. 1899 [= *A. truncatula* subsp. *commis[x]ta* Castrov. & Charpin in Candollea 38: 676. 1983].

≡ *A. truncatula* var. *durieui* (Gand.) Henriq. in Bol. Soc. Brot. 20: 49. 1905.

A full synonymy is offered by ROMERO GARCÍA & BLANCA (1986: 695-696; 1988: 141-142).

Typification

ROMERO GARCÍA & BLANCA (1986) proposed a typification of the name *A. durieui* Boiss. & Reut. ex Willk., Suppl. Prodr. Fl. Hisp.: 15, 1893. As a lectotype, they selected material collected by Durieu, which Merino (even Willkomm) never saw, and which thereby could not have been used for the original description. Actually, that specimen cannot be currently found in Willkomm’s Herbarium. Therefore, under ICBN, Art. 9.9 and 9A, this typification must be rejected, and a new one, based on a specimen kept in Gandoger’s Herbarium, proposed.

In the Gandoger’s Herbarium (LY, Département de Biologie Végétale, University of Lyon) there is only one sheet containing two plants in accordance with the protologue. On its label we can read: “*M. Gandoger – Plantae Hispaniae borealis. / Agrostis nevadensis* Boiss. *var.* [crossed out 'nevadensis Boiss. *var.*'] / *Duriaei* Boiss. Reut. *var.* / Hab. Palencia, m. Peña Labra; in fissuris / rupium cacuminis. – alt. 5700'. / *Hujus ditionis civis nova ! / 26 julii 1894 legi.* / M. Gandoger.” [mss. Gandoger]. These materials are, without doubt, the type of the name. As *Lectotypus* we choose the specimen shown in the Fig. 1 and indicated with a label (Fig. 2).

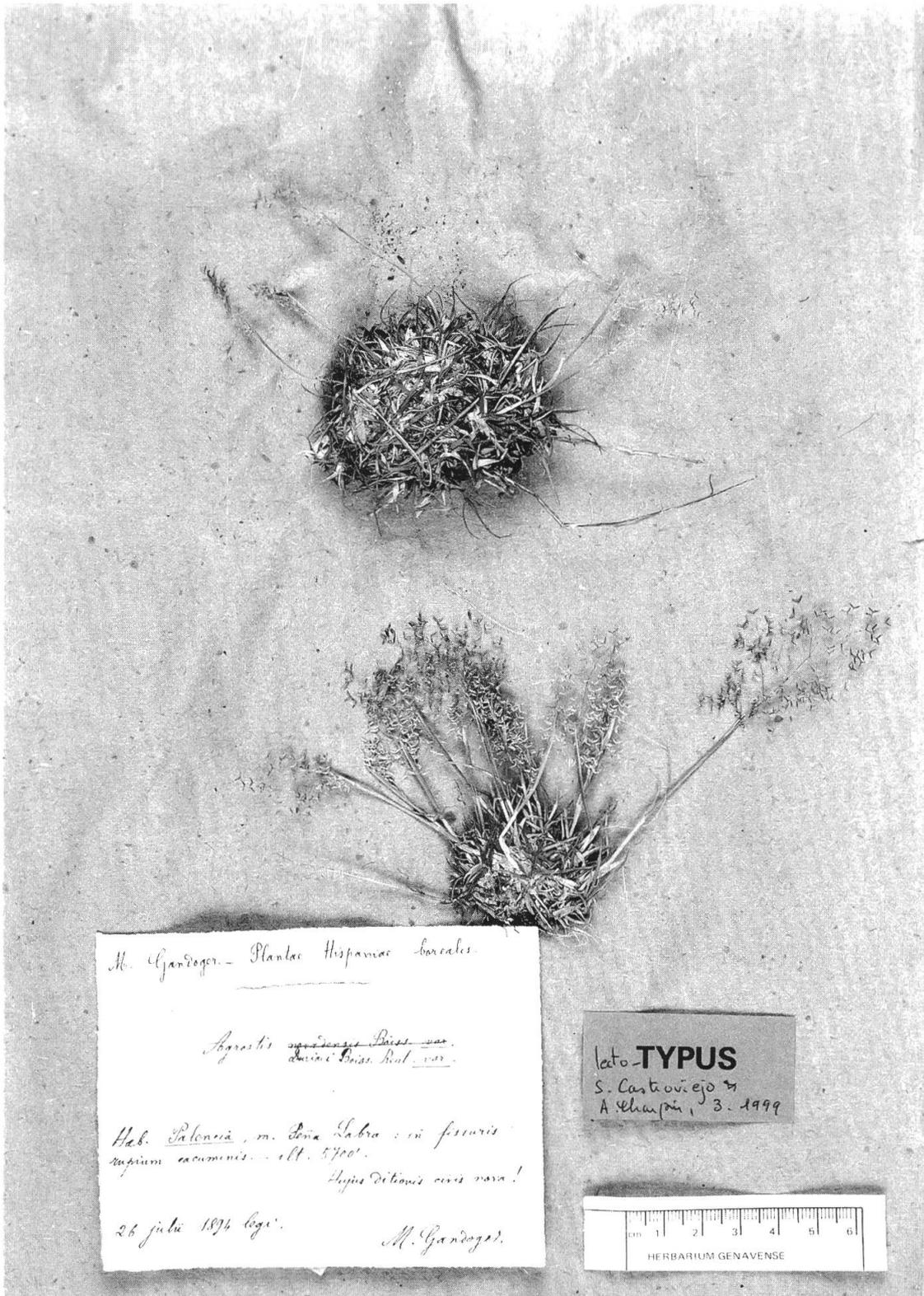


Fig. 1. - Lectotype of *Agrostis durieui* Gand.



Fig. 2. – Lectotype of *Agrostis durieui* Gand.

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