

# *Cyperus limiticola*, a New Name for a Madagascan *Cyperus* (Cyperaceae)

Isabel Larridon\*, Marc F. M. Reynders, and Paul Goetghebeur

Ghent University, Department of Biology, Research Group Spermatophytes, K. L. Ledeganckstraat 35, 9000 Gent, Belgium. \*Corresponding author: isabel.larridon@ugent.be

**ABSTRACT.** There is a need to propose a new name in *Cyperus* L. for *C. paucispiculatus* Chermeson because the name currently used is an illegitimate later homonym of *C. paucispiculatus* Bockeler. A new name, *C. limiticola* Larridon & Reynders, is provided here.

**Key words:** Cyperaceae, *Cyperus*.

In 1884, Bockeler described *Cyperus paucispiculatus* Bockeler [= *Pycnus divulsus* (Ridley) C. B. Clarke]. Chermeson (1919) used *C. paucispiculatus* Chermeson for a new species from Madagascar and placed it in its own section, *Cyperus* sect. *Paucispiculati* Chermeson. The latter species does not belong to the genus *Pycnus* P. Beauvois, and so is not related to *P. divulsus*, although both species show a reduction in the number of spikelets. *Cyperus paucispiculatus* Chermeson is a later homonym of *C. paucispiculatus* Bockeler and is therefore illegitimate (McNeill et al., 2006: Art. 53.1). A new name, *C. limiticola* Larridon & Reynders, is proposed. The epithet, which means "inhabiting the edge," refers to the natural surroundings in which the plant was collected (i.e., the edge of the forest).

## ***Cyperus limiticola* Larridon & Reynders, nom. nov.**

Replaced name: *Cyperus paucispiculatus* Chermeson, Bull. Soc. Bot. France 66: 342. 1919 [1920], non *Cyperus paucispiculatus* Bockeler, 1884. TYPE: Madagascar. [Antananarivo]: Distr. Manjakandriana, lisière de la forêt à l'Est d'Ambatolaona, 1400 m, 11 Nov. 1912, R. Viguier & J.-H. Humbert 1256 (holotype, P 00450832; isotypes, P 00450833, P 00581793). Figure 1.

Caespitose perennial herb with a slender rhizome; culms filiform, 15–35 cm × ca. 0.5 mm, smooth. Leaves few, slightly shorter than the culms, ca.

0.5 mm wide, setaceous, semicylindrical, smooth, leaf sheaths fuscous. Lower involucral bract smooth, erect, continuing in the direction of the culm, up to 3–6 cm, setaceous; second involucral bract glumiform; anthela composed of 1 to 3 radii; radii 0–4 cm, erect, with short prophylls and 1 or 2 spikelets; spikelets compressed, ovate-lanceolate, ca. 5 × 2.5 mm, with 5 to 7 flowers; rachilla winged. Glumes slightly imbricate, ovate-lanceolate, shortly mucronate, ca. 3 mm, subrigid, the sides yellow-brown, with 2 or 3 obscure lateral nerves, midrib narrow, smooth, green, 3-nerved; stamens 3; anthers linear, connectives shortly setiferous; style deeply trifid. Achenes immature.

**Discussion.** Chermeson (1919) stated that, with its multinervate glumes and its setiferous anthers, this isolated species only approaches the sections *Cyperus* sect. *Diffusi* (Kunth) C. B. Clarke and *Cyperus* sect. *Debilissimi* Chermeson, from which it is, however, sufficiently distinct, by its inflorescence and its leaves, to deserve its own section. Molecular research may offer an answer to its taxonomic relationships, although sadly this species is only known from its immature type specimens.

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Figure 1. *Cyperus limiticola* Larridon & Reynders. —A. Habit. —B. Inflorescence. —C. Detail of spikelets. Drawn by Marc Reynders from the holotype *Viguier & Humbert 1256* (P).



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