



Validation of the name *Cyperus atronervatus* subsp. *angustifolius* (Cyperaceae)

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Summary. The name *Cyperus atronervatus* subsp. *angustifolius* was not validly published due to the omission of a Latin diagnosis. The name is validly published here.

Key Words. Ethiopia, nomenclature, subsp. nov.

Introduction

The genus *Cyperus* is the second largest genus in the Cyperaceae, (after *Carex* L.) and is mostly associated with tropical and warm temperate parts of the world (Simpson & Muasya 2004). The genus is characterised by a capitate or anthelate inflorescence, and mostly distichously arranged glumes and bisexual flowers (Larridon *et al.* 2021).

Cyperus atronervatus Boeckeler, first described in 1874 (Boeckeler 1874) was transferred in and out of *Pycneus* P.Beauv. by different authors (Clarke 1908; Kükenthal 1936) owing to the morphological similarity of the two genera. In the *Flora of Ethiopia and Eritrea*, Lye (1997) kept the species in *Cyperus* but within the subgenus *Pycneus*.

Recent phylogenetic studies have shown that *Pycneus* is nested within the genus *Cyperus*, along with other formally recognised segregate genera (see Larridon *et al.* 2014, 2021). Consequently, *Cyperus* now includes c. 960 species (Larridon *et al.* 2021).

During sorting of specimens studied by the late Sheila Hooper, a specimen of *Cyperus atronervatus* subsp. *angustifolius* Lye (Ash 2097) was found that was a duplicate of the type collection already at K. Ash 2097 was identified as a new subspecies by Kåre Arnstein Lye and is cited in the *Flora of Ethiopia and Eritrea*. However, within this account there is no reference to where the name was first published, nor does the account itself have a description of the taxon; a requirement under article 38.1 of the nomenclatural code (Turland *et al.* 2018). Lye formally published other Cyperaceae names in the journal *Lidia* for inclusion in the Flora, but *C. atronervatus* subsp. *angustifolius* Lye cannot be found in any *Lidia* issue. Because this name can only be traced as first appearing in the *Flora of Ethiopia and Eritrea*, and due to the apparent oversight of validation, the name is formally published here.

***Cyperus atronervatus* Boeckeler subsp. *angustifolius* Lye ex Xanthos subsp. nov.**

<http://www.ipni.org/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77319964-1>

Cyperus atronervatus Boeckeler subsp. *angustifolius* Lye, *Fl. Ethiopia & Eritrea* 6: 236 (1997) **nom. inval.**
Type: Ethiopia, 14 km N of Entoto Pass out of Addis Ababba, Soluta, flooded water meadows, 2500 m, SU, not known elsewhere, Ash 2097 (holotype K [K001562334]; isotypes ETH, K [K001562335]).

Annual. Culms 5 – 50 cm × 0.5 – 1 mm. Leaf blades 0.3 – 1 mm wide. Inflorescence an anthela of 1 – 4 spikelets. Spikelets 5 – 16 × 2 – 5 mm, linear-lanceolate, flattened, grey-black. Glumes 2 – 3 mm long, green or pallid and without a prominent midrib but with many prominent black longitudinal lines, without a wide black margin, apex obtuse. Nutlet 1.3 – 1.8 × 0.9 – 1.2 mm, obovate, strongly flattened, black, smooth or punctate.

DISTRIBUTION. Ethiopia.

ETYMOLOGY. The subspecific name is derived from the narrow leaves of the taxon.

NOTES. The taxon differs from the typical species in several respects. Subspecies *angustifolius* is an annual with thinner culms and thinner leaf blades, an anthela of typically 2 – 4 spikelets, shorter glumes, and the absence of a black border around the glume margin. Subspecies *atronervatus* is a perennial with thicker culms (1 – 3 mm wide), wider leaf blades (2 – 5 mm), larger glumes (3 – 6 mm long) and a conspicuous black border around the glume margin.

Declarations

Conflicts of interest The author declares no conflict of interest.

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