

XIV. *Additional Observations relating to Festuca spadicea and Anthoxanthum paniculatum.* By James Edward Smith, M. D. F. R. S. and P. L. S.

Read Feb. 7, 1792.

IN a paper which the Linnean Society have honoured with a place in the 1st volume of their Transactions, page 111, I have endeavoured to elucidate the botanical history of the *Festuca spadicea* and *Anthoxanthum paniculatum* of Linnæus, concluding these grasses, from all the means of information then within my reach, to be one and the same plant. That no possibility of doubt might remain, nor the synonyms of this obscure species want any certainty that could be procured, I last summer requested Professor Thunberg to compare one of my specimens with that in Burser's Herbarium at Upsal, which is the only positive authority for ascertaining what Linnæus meant by his *Anthoxanthum paniculatum*. In a letter dated Dec. 28, 1791, the Professor assures me there is no doubt of their perfect identity.

Knowing myself to be the sole author of this elucidation, the progress of which is detailed in the paper above mentioned, it is not without some surprise that I read in Professor Vahl's 2d fasciculus of his *Symbolæ Botanicæ*, page 22, the material parts of my discovery given as his own in the following words.

*Festuca spadicea*—Linn. S. V. pag. 118. Gouan illustr. p. 4.

*Anthoxanthum paniculatum*—Linn. S. V. p. 73. fide Herbarii

LINNÆI.

*Poa Gerardi*. Allion. Fl. Ped. No. 2201.

Variet calycibus 3-five 5-floris.

Now

Now the manner in which this is expressed implies that the author had, from the Linnæan Herbarium, learned *Festuca spadicea* and *Anthoxanthum paniculatum* to be the same plant; whereas it is sufficiently manifest, from my former paper, he could never have discovered from that source what either of those plants was; there being nothing in the Herbarium to represent the latter, and of the former only an imperfect anonymous specimen, placed at the end of the genus of *Festuca*, which could never have been ascertained but by the peculiar train of circumstances which led me to the knowledge of it, and which was certainly never known to be *Festuca spadicea* till it was announced as such before this Society, Oct. 5, 1790, that is, about five years after Professor Vahl saw the Herbarium; still less had any botanist in Europe till then supposed the same *Festuca* to be *Poa Gerardi* of Allioni.