

No. 59. TWO NEW SPECIES OF ERIACHNE.

Among a set of duplicates of *Eriachne*, which I received through the courtesy of Dr. LAIDLAW (Nat. Herb. of Victoria), I found the following new species.

1. *Eriachne Burkittii* n. sp.

Gramen annuum, radicibus fibrosus, innovationibus nullis. Culmi semimetrales, erecti, graciles, glabri, nodis breviter pubescentibus. Folia culmi ad 4; vaginae quam internodia breviores; ligula composita e margine brevi cum serie pilorum postposita; lamina plana marginibus crassis paulum scabris, statu sicco praecipue apicem versus involuta; laminae foliorum inferiorum c. 20 cm longae, superiorum gradatim breviores. Inflorescentia panicula erecta plusminus contracta vaginam superans, ramis tenuibus glabris spiculas in pedicellis ad 2 cm longis ferentibus. Spiculae biflorae. Glumae $5\frac{1}{2}$ —6 mm longae, glabrae, indistincte nervosae, lanceolatae, inferior sensim attenuata, superior in acumen ad 1 mm longum exiens. Flores aequi. Rhachella nulla. Lemmae arista excepta 5 mm longae, in aristam flexuosam ad 3 cm longam exientes, ultra medium dense pilosae pilis plerisque brevibus. Palea angusta acuminata, apice integra.

Bridge Kreek. Near Port Darwin (Australia) leg. *Burkitt* 1881.

From the same locality I possess a grass, that I consider a variety of the former species.

Var. hirsutissima n. var.

Culmi metrales, validi, nodis longe barbatis; folia cum vaginis dense hirsuta; panicula maior.

2. *Eriachne Laidlawii* n. sp.

Gramen annuum radicibus fibrosis innovationibus nullis. Culmi 60—70 cm alti, erecti, robusti, valde caespitosi, basi 4 mm crassi, usque ad paniculam foliati, nodis breviter pilosis. Vaginae internodiis paulo breviores. Ligula e margine brevi et pilis in humeris et in serie postposita composita; lamina plana, ad 4 mm lata, apicem versus involuta. Inflorescentia panicula erecta paulum contracta,

ramis numerosis oblique erectis tenuibus levibus, spiculas in pedicellis ad 3 cm longis ferentibus. Spiculae biflorae. Glumae $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm longae, praecipue apicem versus hispidae pilis rigidis patentibus in tuberculis positis, lanceolatae, indistincte multinerves, in mucronulum brevem exientes. Flores aequi. Rhachella nulla. Lemmae arista excepta 4 mm longae, in aristam debilem ad 3 cm longam exientes, usque fere ad apicem lanosae. Palea angusta, acuminata, integra, dorso lanosa.

Bridge Kreek. Near Port Darwin (Australia) leg. *Burkitt* 1881.

According to the key in Bentham's *Flora Australiensis* VII 626, both species belong to the section with awns longer than the spikelet. But the panicle not being dense, with crowded sessile spikelets as in *E. stipacea*, *Armittii*, *squarrosa* and *glauca*, they are more or less related to *E. rara* and *agrostidea*. But the latter are slender, tufted grasses, with very narrow almost subulate leaves, hispid with spreading hairs. In our species the panicle is open and large with numerous spikelets, the leaves flat and not hispid, the stems erect and more than $\frac{1}{2}$ m high.

The above mentioned key can be extended as follows:

1. Awns much longer than the glumes

Panicle dense, spikelets sessile or nearly so.

Palea produced into 2 fine awn-like points

Outer glumes glabrous (11 mm long) *E. stipacea* F. M.

Outer glumes hairy (5 mm long) *E. Armitii* F. M.

Palea-point short, entire.

Nodes densely bearded, outer glumes hairy (11 mm long)

E. squarrosa R. Br.

Nodes glabrous, outer glumes hairy (5 mm long)

E. glauca R. Br.

Panicle loose with few spikelets. Leaves narrow, hispid. with spreading hairs.

Outer glumes glabrous (7 mm long) *E. rara* R. Br.

Outer glumes hispid. (4 mm long) *E. agrostidea* F. M.

Panicle loose with many spikelets Leaves 3—4 mm wide, flat.

Outer glumes glabrous (6 mm long) *E. Burkittii* Nob.

Outer glumes hispid. ($4\frac{1}{2}$ mm long) *E. Laidlawii* Nob.

2. Awns not longer than the glumes etc.

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