

**DIGITARIA EFFUSA (GRAMINEAE),
A NEW SPECIES FROM VIETNAM**

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During an agrostological survey in the Lam Dong Province, Vietnam, Mr. J. B. Hacker (St. Lucia, Queensland, Australia) collected a remarkable undescribed species of *Digitaria*. Among the Asian taxa it is peculiar because of its montane provenance coupled with a combination of an inflorescence with well-developed common axis with alternate racemes, the presence of a small lower glume, and the absence of any indument on the spikelet. Somewhat similar is *D. wallichiana* (Steud.) Stapf, also a montane species occurring with one subspecies in Sri Lanka and Madras, and another in Java and Bali. It differs by the whorled lowermost branches of the inflorescence, the absent lower glume, and a longer upper glume (1.6–2 mm long, 0.8–0.95 times as long as the spikelet), and a usually presence of an indument on the spikelet.

The spikelets are surprisingly similar to those of the rare Vietnamese species *Panicum amoenum* Balansa and *P. smithii* M. M. Rahman, but these have a much larger habit with larger inflorescences, long-pedicelled spikelets, large and nerved lower glumes, and an indurated fertile lemma in fruit. Hacker's specimens do not have mature fruits, but the paired spikelets with short and somewhat longer pedicels are typical for binate *Digitaria* species and not for a *Panicum*.

***Digitaria effusa* Veldk., spec. nov.**

Perennes culmis geniculatis, ligulis c. 1 mm longis, foliorum laminis 6–8 mm latis pilosis, panícula effusa, axe communi 1–3 cm longo, racemis paucis patentibus alternis (infirmis inclusis) 3.5–5.5 cm longis, pedicelli apice discoideo, spiculis 1.8–2 mm longis, gluma inferiore 0.25–0.3 mm longa, gluma superiore 1.4–1.5 mm longa spicula 0.74–0.79-plo longiore glabra, lemmate sterili glabro, lemmate fertili spicula paulo brevior verosimiliter flavido in fructu, antheris c. 0.9 mm longis. — Typus: *Hacker 1613* (holo L).

Perennials, rhizome absent, cataphylls present, pilose. Culms 0.25–0.35 m long, geniculately ascending, rooting in the decumbent nodes. Nodes glabrous. Sheaths pilose, margins pilose. Ligule a membranous glabrous collar, c. 1 mm high, erose. Blades flat, linear, 4–8 cm by 6–8 mm, pilose, base rounded, margin at base pilose to slightly pectinate, apex acuminate, underneath with c. 7 major nerves. Panicle lax, 4.5–5 by 6–10 cm. Main axis 1–3 cm long, smooth, glabrous. Panicle branches patent, all alternate, 4–8, rhachis triquetrous, scaberulous, glabrous, spikelet to base, the lowermost 3.5–5.5 cm long. Pedicels straight, appressed, shorter than the spikelets, scaberulous, abscission discoid, margin ciliolate. Spikelets paired, homomorphous, not yawning at maturity, 1.8–2 mm long, acute. Lower glume ovate, 0.25–0.3 mm

long, 0.14–0.15 times as long as the spikelet, acute to rounded, 0-nerved. *Upper glume* 1.4–1.5 mm long, 0.74–0.79 times as long as the spikelet, acute, glabrous, 3-nerved, nerves without transverse veinlets. *First lemma* acute, glabrous, nerves 7, equidistant, smooth, without transverse veinlets. *Second lemma* slightly shorter than the spikelet, smooth, shiny, possibly turning yellowish in fruit, glabrous, apex apiculate, straight. Anthers c. 0.9 mm long.

Distribution — Vietnam, Lam Dong Prov., 2 km S of Da Lat, N 11° 54.9', E 108° 25.7'.

Habitat — Roadside in pine tree woodland, soil clayey, pH 6.0, altitude c. 1200 m.