

5. A NEW MEXICAN CAREX

BY C. A. WEATHERBY

Carex Mackenziana, sp. nov. Caespitosa, rhizomate breve. Culmi 6–10 dm. alti basin versus crassi superne tenuiores laeves folia valde superantes. Folia pluria basin culmi versus aggregata glabra, vaginis laxis castaneo-tinctis, laminis 10–30 cm. longis 5–6 mm. latis planis longe acuminatis siccatis multi-striatis margine nervisque primariis scaberulis; folium unicum minus 9–15 cm. longum 3–4 mm. latum in medio culmo insidens. Spicae 3–5 supremis totius masculis vel flores femineos paucos irregulariter positos gerentibus exceptis androgynae lineari-cylindraceae 3–5 cm. longae 4–6 mm. diametro, inferiores late distantes singulae pendulae, superiores approximatae interdum geminatae adscendentes, pedunculis gracillimis ad 4 cm. longis. Bractea ima vagina 4–5 cm. longa clausa paene ad orificem herbacea, lamina anguste lineari ad 8 cm. longa ornata; bracteae superiores similes sed reductae, omnes laminiferae. Squamae oblongo-ovatae acutae obtusiusculae vel breviter mucronatae perigynia subaequantes stramineae vel albae hyalinae, vitta mediana viridi trinervata. Perigynia 30–50 ellipsoidalia vel subobovoidea 3.5–4 mm. longa c. 1.75 mm. lata prominenter binervata, lateribus enervia vel leviter pauci-nervata, basi achaenium laxe amplexentia siccata sicut alata, apice in rostrum 0.5–0.75 mm. longum laeve demum bidentatum subabrupte desinentia, obscure puncticulata sparse strigoso-puberulentia vel glabrescentia angulis ciliolata. Stigmata tria fusca gracilia elongata. Achaenia ovoidea c. 2.5 mm. longa 1.5 mm. lata flavescencia trigona laevia basi rotundata apice lata apiculata, lateribus concavis.

MEXICO: STATE OF NUEVO LEON: common in moist oak wood, Sierra Madre Oriental about 15 miles southwest of Galeana, June 28, 1934, C. H. & H. T. Mueller, no. 892.

In its long-sheathing lower bract, and rather slender, drooping androgynous spikes, this species seems clearly a member of Mackenzie's series *Viridiflorae*, most nearly allied to *C. perlonga* Fernald. From that species it differs in several characters—the smooth sheaths; the comparatively thick, short, usually single spikes, the lowest very remote; the ellipsoid and short-beaked somewhat puberulent perigynia about equalling the scales; and the slender, elongate, dark stigmas.

Mr. Mackenzie's key to the series *Viridiflorae* may be thus rewritten to include *C. Mackenziana*.

- Culms loosely cespitose, the rhizome elongate; perigynia scarcely beaked. *C. pertenuis*.
 Culms densely cespitose from a short rootstock; perigynia definitely beaked.
 Principal leaf-blades 2-4 mm. wide, channeled above and more or less keeled below, sparsely short-hirsute; perigynium oblong-obovoid, the beak ciliate-serrulate. *C. viridiflora*.
 Principal leaf-blades 3.5-5.5 mm. wide, flat, glabrous; perigynium-beak smooth.
 Sheaths hispidulous; spikes 8-12 cm. long; perigynia spindle-shaped, glabrous, with beak 1.5 mm. long. *C. perlonga*.
 Sheaths smooth; spikes 3-5 cm. long; perigynia ellipsoid, sparsely puberulent, the beak 0.5-0.75 mm. long. *C. Mackenziana*.

It is surely appropriate to dedicate to the late Mr. Mackenzie a well-marked species in the genus with which he worked so long and to the understanding of which he added so much.

6. NOTES ON NOMENCLATURE IN IRIDACEAE

BY ROBERT C. FOSTER

THESE notes embody a number of nomenclatural changes in *Iridaceae*, changes, for the most part, made necessary either by the priority rule or by the rule concerning later homonyms within a genus. A rigid application of this latter rule will, perforce, result in many alterations of specific names. Where the earlier name belongs to a plant which is a valid species, there seems no legitimate objection to changing the later name. On the other hand, where the earlier homonym is recognized as a synonym, it seems unfortunate that the later-named plant must be renamed, or that the use of the specific name is barred within a genus. For example, in 1787 Thunberg transferred *Ferraria undulata* L. to *Moraea*, a change which has been unacceptable to later workers. Yet, this brief and incorrect sojourn in *Moraea* will, under the present rules, prevent the use of the specific name *undulata* for any species of *Moraea*.

By no means all the errors discovered are considered here. It has not yet been possible to investigate some as fully as is necessary. In other cases, taxonomic study seems desirable before changing names. A hasty survey of *Gladiolus* showed the presence of nearly fifty later homonyms in that genus. They are not treated here, since the genus is being monographed by Mrs. Louisa Bolus. In so large and difficult a group it seems especially preferable to make nomenclatural changes only after taxonomic study. Finally, since taxonomic studies have not been possible, changes in status have been avoided in the present work.



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