

NOTES ON AUSTRALIAN CYPERACEAE, VII.

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In this paper eight new species are described and two previously described species are recorded from Australia for the first time; some critical species are discussed and necessary adjustments in nomenclature are made.

Scirpus wakefieldianus S. T. Blake, nomen et status novus.

Scirpus inundatus (R.Br.) Poir. var. *pseudosetaceus* Kükenth. in
Candollea vi, 427 (1936), non *S. pseudosetaceus* Daveau.

Descriptio hic ampliata:

Herba annua, viridis, caespitosa, usque ad 14 cm. alta, basi saepe ramosa. *Culmi* erecti, filiformes, striati, usque ad 0.5 mm. crassi, glabri laevesque, basi foliati. *Folia* pauca, plerumque breviter et saepe fere ad vaginas redacta, acuta vel obtusa, usque ad 0.7 mm. lata, tenuissime 5-nervia, supra concava subtus plus minusve convexa; vaginae dorso purpureae, antice albohyalinae, omnino tenuiter plurinerves, apice leviter inflatae plus minusve truncatae. *Bractea* unica, quasi culmum continuans, erecta vel leviter excurva recurvave, spiculas superans et interdum usque ad 22 mm. longa. *Inflorescentia* quasi lateralis, e spiculis plerumque 3–5 sessilibus divergentibus constructa. *Spiculae* variegatae, ovoideae, obtusae, plus minusve angulatae (haud teretes), 3–4 mm. longae, circa 2.5 mm. latae, multiflorae. *Glumae* incurvae, explanatae suborbiculares, obtusissimae, brevissime apiculatae vel muticae apice saepe patulae, 11-nerves, obtuse carinatae carina viridi crassa percurrente et saepius minute excurrente, lateribus tenuiter membranaceae plus minusve purpureae tenuiter nervosae, marginibus angustae, hyalinae, omnino glabrae, 1.9–2 mm. longae subaequilatae. *Stamen* 1; anther linearis, apiculata, 0.5 mm. longa. *Stylus* brevis, 0.4–0.5 mm. longus; stigmata 3, admodum longiora. *Nux* straminea, nitida, ambitu suborbicularis, trigona, leviter compressa, breviter apiculata, minute stipitata, 0.8 mm. longa, 0.6 mm. lata, angulis leviter costulata, lateribus omnibus convexula, longitudinaliter striata et transversim trabeculata cellulis extimis transversim oblongis in seriebus circa 6–8 fere regulariter dispositis.

VICTORIA.—Gippsland: Reedy Creek, Cann River, 8th Nov. 1947, *N. A. Wakefield* 2031; Cann River, in damp depression, 29th October 1947, *N. A. Wakefield* 2011; Cann River, 18th Nov. 1947, *N. A. Wakefield* 2101; Cann River, Sports Ground, 24th Nov. 1947, *N. A. Wakefield* 2105. Central: Healesville, Mt. Blackspur, damp gully in Eucalyptus forest, about 2,000 ft., 26th Feb. 1905, *B. P. G. Hochreutiner* 3017 (TYPE).

This species is similar to *Scirpus inundatus* (R.Br.) Poir. in habit, in the solitary stamen with a relatively short anther and the pale-coloured trigonous nut more or less distinctly convex between the ribbed angles, but differs conspicuously in the longitudinally striate and transversely trabeculate nut which is also relatively somewhat broader and more nearly orbicular than obovate in outline.

I am indebted to Dr. Kükenthal for a piece of the type of *S. inundatus* (R.Br.) Poir. var. *pseudosetaceus* Kükenth., and to Mr. Wakefield for the fine series of specimens cited above. In one flower, two stamens were observed; in another, two stigmas.

Scirpus montivagus S. T. Blake; species nova, affinis *S. inundato* (R.Br.) Poir., sed foliis culmum longe superantibus, rhizomate longe repente, spiculis nucibusque paullo majoribus, glumis crassioribus, nuce longius acuminato-apiculata ejus cellulis extimis minoribus praecipue differt.

Herba perennis, caespites humiles densos foliosos efformans; rhizoma repens, ramosum, tenuissimum fere filiforme. *Culmi* aggregati, plus minusve erecti, setacei, subtrigoni, striati ceterum laeves, glabri, sub inflorescentia 1.5–4 cm. alti, 0.3–0.5 mm. crassi, prope basin foliati. *Folia* pro ratione longissima, culmum longe superantia et usque ad 7.5 cm. longa, stricta, 0.4–0.6 mm. lata, supra canaliculata, subtus plus minusve convexa, apicem obtusum versus plus minusve plana, glabra, enerves vel supra 3-nerves, pro more 2–4 ad basin omnis culmi sita; vaginae antice plus minusve hyalinae, interiores integrae apice truncatae. *Inflorescentia* quasi lateralis, e spiculis 1–3 divergentibus sessilibus constructa. *Bractae* 2; inferior foliis similis, erecta quasi culmum continuans vel plus minusve inflexa, basi dilatata, longissima, pro more 2.5–4.5 cm. longa (i.e., culmo aequilonga vel paullo longior); superior glumiformis. *Spiculae* pallide virentes, ovoideae vel oblongo-ovoidae, plus minusve obtusae, polygonae, multiflorae, 3–5 mm. longae, circa 2–2.5 mm. latae. *Glumae* ovato-oblongae, obtuse rotundatae muticae, incurvae, 7-nerves, dorso 1-nervis sursum carinatae coriaceae carina crassa percurrente, lateribus membranaceae tenuissime nervatae, marginibus latiuscule hyalinae, omnino glabrae, 2.1–2.2 mm. longae et 1.2–1.3 mm. latae (explanatae). *Stamen* 1; anther linearis, apiculata, circa 1.2 mm. longa. *Stylus* 0.6–0.7 mm. longus; stigmata 3, manifeste longiora. *Nux* nitida, straminea vel pallide brunnea, ambitu obovata breviter subabrupteque acuminata, triquetra, leviter compressa angulis anguste costata, inter costulis convexula, 1.15–1.25 mm. longa, 0.75–0.8 mm. lata, cellulis extimis perminutis.

VICTORIA.—North-East: Mt. Buffalo, in morasses about 4,500 ft., forming dense light-green patches, 25th Jan. 1935, S. T. Blake 7375 (TYPE); soaks between Mt. Nelson and Timm's Lookout, Bogong High Plains, about 5,800 ft., 12th Jan. 1946, J. H. Willis.

Very similar to *S. inundatus* (R.Br.) Poir. in general features of the spikelet, but very different in appearance by reason of the numerous long leaves, long bracts and elongated branched rhizomes. The backs of the glumes are much thicker in texture, and the side-nerves are very faint and indistinct. The anther is about twice as long; and the nut is longer, relatively narrower, much more narrowed towards the base, more prominently acuminate-apiculate (almost rostrate), decidedly brown in colour when mature instead of whitish to yellowish, and with even smaller external cells.

Fimbristylis nuda Boeck. in Flora lviii, 110 (1875).

F. humilis S. T. Blake in Proc. Roy. Soc. Queensl. xlviii, 91 (1937), non Peter (1936).

Fimbristylis nuda Boeck. was tentatively referred by Bentham, Fl. Austral. vii, 302 (1878), to *F. acuminata* Vahl, but appears to have been overlooked by subsequent botanists; it was unknown to me at the

time the description of *F. humilis* was drawn up, as was also the homonym of Peter. I am indebted to Mr. E. Nelses of the Kew Herbarium for a copy of Boeckeler's description, for "Flora" is not well represented in Australian libraries, and vol. lviii is absent from all.

I have not seen any specimen of the type-collection (Port Denison, *Amalie Dietrich*), but Boeckeler's description agrees so well with *F. humilis* S. T. Blake that there can be no doubt about the species. The exactly oval, obtuse, terete spikelets 2–1.5 lines long with very small, obtuse, obtusely keeled, reddish glumes and the broad style and tiny nut with only 4–5 transverse wrinkles described by Boeckeler do not at all accord with *F. acuminata* Vahl or *F. setacea* Benth. (*F. acuminata* Vahl. var. *setacea* (Benth.) Benth.), both of which have longer, acute, less densely flowered spikelets (about 5 mm. long in *F. setacea* and up to 10 mm. long in *F. acuminata*) with pallid, subacute glumes, and with usually more numerous transverse wrinkles on the nuts.

Fimbristylis nuda is rather widely spread in Queensland and the Northern Territory.

***Fimbristylis eragrostis* (Nees & Meyen) Hance** in J. Linn. Soc. London xiii, 132 (1873).

Abildgaardia eragrostis Nees & Meyen in Wight Contrib. Bot. Ind. 95 (1834).

QUEENSLAND.—Cook District: Near Cairns, in open (chiefly bloodwood) forest on light-grey podzolised soil on gentle slope, about 50 ft., 4th Dec. 1941, S. T. Blake 14510.

New for Australia; previously known from China to New Guinea.

***Fimbristylis insignis* Thw.** Enum. Pl. Zeyl. 349 (1864).

QUEENSLAND.—North Kennedy District: About 10 miles S. of Tully, in very open *Casuarina-Melaleuca* dwarf forest on swampy sandy soil, chiefly in wet places, about 40 ft., 29th April 1945, S. T. Blake & L. J. Webb 15801.

New for Australia; previously reported from Ceylon, China, Borneo and New Guinea. The type-collection, from Ceylon, is represented in Herb. Melbourne.

***Schoenus maschalinus* R. & S.** Syst. Veg. ii, 77 (1817).

Schoenus axillaris (R.Br.) Poir. Encycl. Suppl. ii, 251 (1811) non Lam.

Chaetospira axillaris R.Br. Prodr. 233 (1810).

Schoenus subaxillaris Kükenth. in Fedde Repert. xlv, 89 (1938).

Schoenus foliatus (Hook. f.) S. T. Blake in Proc. Roy. Soc. Queensl. li, 48 (Feb. 1940), in J. Arnold Arb. xxix, 93 (1948).

Schoenus foliatus (Hook. f.) Kükenth. in Fedde Repert. xlviii, 248 (Sept. 1940).

Scirpus foliatus Hook. f. in Hook. London J. Bot. iii, 414 (1844).

Helothrix pusilla Nees in Ann. Nat. Hist. ser. I, vi, 45 (1841) non *Schoenus pusillus* Sw.

Helothrix axillaris (R.Br.) Palla in All. Bot. Zeitschr. viii, 68 (1902).

Scleria setifera Boeck. in Flora xli, 648 (1858); *syn. nov.*

This is the species widely known in Australian and New Zealand literature as *Schoenus axillaris* (R.Br.) Poir., but the name is illegitimate because of the prior homonym of Swartz. Kükenthal, in 1938, l.c., accordingly proposed the new name *Schoenus subaxillaris* Kükenth. for the species. Then in 1940, ll.cc., he and I independently made the combination *Schoenus foliatus* based on *Scirpus foliatus* Hook f., and under this combination I recorded the species for New Guinea (1948, l.c.). All modern authors appear to have overlooked the fact that Roemer and Schultes adjusted the nomenclature as early as 1817, and their name, *Schoenus maschalinus*, is clearly the legitimate one for the species. From the description there can be no doubt that *Scleria setifera* Boeck. is the same species, but this appears to be the first occasion that Boeckeler's name has been associated with it.

Schoenus pennisetis *S. T. Blake*; species nova, quoad facies *S. odontocarpo* F. Muell. simillimus, sed *S. nano* (Nees) Benth. ut videtur affinior, a quo tamen inflorescentia laxe paniculata, spiculis minoribus, nuce obovoidea crebre reticulata differt.

Herba annua, glaberrima, viridis vel purpurascens, usque ad 13 cm. alta. *Culmi* fasciculati, erecti vel obliqui, capillares, subtrigoni, manifeste sulcati, asperuli, sub inflorescentia enodes, basi foliati. *Foliorum* vaginae arctiusculae, nitidae, purpureae, ore plus minusve oblique sectae, omnino glabrae; laminae setaceae, 0.35–0.5 mm. latae, marginibus plus minusve incurvae, dorso uninerves plus minusve carinatae, supra laxe reticulatae, laeves, usque ad basem inflorescentiae raro patentes. *Inflorescentia* laxe paniculata, 1.2–5 cm. longa, e fasciculis 1–3 inter se distantibus constructa, usque ad 10-spiculata; bracteae foliis similes, basi vaginantes, saltem ima fasciculo suo longior; rami vel pedicelli 2–4-ni vel singuli, compresso-filiformes, e vagina exserti et usque ad 10 mm. longi. *Spiculae* atrosanguineae, anguste oblongae et plus minusve lanceolatae, primo acutae mox obtusae, compressae, 1–2-florae, 4.5–5 mm. longae, 1.2–1.3 mm. latae. *Glumae* 5–6, obtusae, leviter incurvae, marginibus angustissime albohyalinae, lateribus atrosanguineae, carina obtusa laevi pallidiores; superiores anguste ovatae, inferiores vacuae multo breviores pro rata latiores plus minusve mucronatae. *Setae hypogynae* 6, purpurascens, nucem superantes, in maiore parte dense plumoso-ciliatae, sursum antrorsim scabrae, in toro conspicuo sitae. *Stamina* 3; antherae lineares, circa 2.5 mm. longae apiculo albido circa 0.3 mm. longo incluso. *Stylus* sub stigmatibus circa 2 mm. longus, tenuis. *Nux* candida, inter setas hypogynas sessilis, obovoidea, obtusa, manifeste tricostulata costulis in stylum fere decurrentibus, lateribus convexa crebre reticulata, (toro 0.25 mm. longo incluso) 1.25 mm. longa, 0.6–0.7 mm. lata.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—South-West Division: Cannington, near Perth, swampy heath on sand, alt. 6–7 m., common on cleared patch, 22nd August 1947, *S. T. Blake* 17986 (TYPE); Cannington swamp, 22nd August 1947, *N. T. Burbidge*.

In its slender annual habit with few, small, loosely paniculate, dark-purple spikelets, this new species closely resembles *S. odontocarpus* F. Muell., but differs in having well developed hypogynous bristles, and finely reticulate (not coarsely scrobiculate) nuts with the marginal ribs

not toothed at the apex but more or less decurrent into the style. The hypogynous bristles are more like those of *S. nanus* (Nees) Benth., but this species also has a coarsely scrobiculate nut, while the spikelets are fewer, more or less capitate, mostly longer, and with shorter, shortly apiculate anthers.

***Schoenus rigens* S. T. Blake, nomen novum.**

Chaetospora distans F. Muell. Fragm. ix, 35 (1875).

Schoenus distans (F. Muell.) F. Muell. First Census Austr. Pl. 127 (1882), non Michx. (1803).

Schoenus calostachyus (R.Br.) Poir. var. *distans* (F. Muell.) Benth. Fl. Austral. vii, 368 (1878).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—South-Western Division: Murchison R., *Oldfield* (MEL; LECTOTYPE); Cannington, near Perth, swampy heath on sand, alt. 6–7 m., 22nd August, 1947, *S. T. Blake* 17985; Busselton, *A. & E. Pries* (MEL).

Without doubt closely allied to *S. calostachyus* (R.Br.) Poir., differing from it in that the culm is nodeless below the inflorescence which occupies much the greater part of the plant, in the shorter leaves and bracts, the few shortly or very shortly pedicellate erect spikelets (the pedicels often scarcely exerted) with rather fewer dull glumes, and the prominently tuberculate nut.

Both the Oldfield and the Pries collections are cited with the original description, and are in the flowering state only. The latter collection is fragmentary; Oldfield's collection is chosen as lectotype because it gives a better idea of the plant.

***Schoenus clandestinus* S. T. Blake; species nova, ob habitum depresse pulviniformem, culmos fere nullos quare spiculos solitarios in rhizomate fere sessiles, atque nucem omnino pubescentem, distinctissima.**

Herba perennis, e rhizomate ramoso pulvinos humiles 5–15 cm. latos efformans. *Culmi* fere nulli, sub fructu usque ad 1 mm. longi. *Folia* plura, plerumque basalia, dense conferta; laminae strictae vel leviter curvae, circa 1–2 cm. longae 0.4–0.5 mm. latae, obtusae, planae vel leviter incurvae, subtus manifeste trinerves et bisulcatae, supra uninerves, pilis brevibus plus minusve conicis basi tuberculatis scabridae vel tandem (pilis ipsis delapsis sed tuberculis persistentibus) asperatae; vaginae breves, apertae, dorso purpureae, membranaceae trinerves nervis sursum plus minusve scabridae, marginibus late albo-hyalinae, apice ciliolatae, truncatae vel in auriculas breves obtusas excurrentes; folia caulina 2–3, breviter vel brevissima, fere evaginantia. *Spicula* in quoque culmo unica, erecta, lanceolata, 8 mm. longa, 1–2-flora; rhachilla inter flores breviter producta, internodo fere recto, circa 0.5 mm. longo. *Glumae* 3–4, oblongo-lanceolatae basi plus minusve dilatatae et ibi ciliolatae, apice acutae, carina excepta tenues, plus minusve stramineae, ima vacua vix brevior. *Setae hypogynae* 3–0, nuce breviores, ciliatae. *Stamina* 3; antherae lineares, circa 3 mm. longae, connectivo brevissime producto. *Stylus* longus, gracilis, 3–3.5 mm. longus; stigmata 3, fimbriolata. Nux pallida, obovoidea, turgida vix trigona, undique hispidula, 1.4 mm. longa, 0.9–1.0 mm. lata.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—South-West Division: 10–20 miles N. of Northampton, in sandy heath, 3rd September 1947, *S. T. Blake* 18139.

An extraordinary species forming small practically stemless mats with only the leaf-blades and styles projecting above the surface of the sand.

Schoenus latitans *S. T. Blake*; species nova, affinis *S. clandestino* *S. T. Blake*, sed spiculis longioribus, setis hypogynis longioribus, nuce ellipsoidea sulcata differt.

Herba perennis, fere acaulis, e rhizomate ramoso pulvinos humiles 5–15 cm. latos pallide virides efformans. *Culmi* usque ad 3 mm. alti, foliis circumdati. Folia plura, dense conferta; laminae pallide virides, saepe plus minusve tortiles, plerumque 2–3 cm. longae, 0.3–0.5 mm. latae, subacutae, supra planae uninerves, subtus 3-nerves plus minusve bisulcatae omnino plus minusve scabridae pilis minimis tenuiter conicis basi subtuberculatis; vaginae longae (circa 2 cm. longae), apertae, flavo-brunneae vel brunneae, nitidulae, apice ciliolatae truncatae vel in lobulos breves obtusos excurrentes, dorso firmae, marginibus late hyalinae; folia caulina circa 3 breviora, fere evaginantia. *Spicula* in quoque culmo unica, erecta, pallida, anguste linearis, 17–24 mm. longa, 3-flora, flore summo saepe tabescenti; rhachillae internodi inter flores usque ad 2 mm. longi, manifeste curvi. *Glumae* 4, lanceolato-lineares, acutae, tenuissime membranaceae dense hispidulae, marginibus hyalinis glabrae, ima florifera, secunda aequilonga, tertia brevia, summa multo brevior angustissima. *Setae hypogynae* 3, inaequales, nuce multo longiores vel ea breviores, ciliatae. *Stamina* 3. *Stylus* tenuissimus, circa 17 mm. longus; stigmata 3, multo breviora, minutissime fimbriolata. *Nux* ellipsoidea, utrinque obtusa, 1.6 mm. longa, 1.0 mm. lata, admodum compressa, longitudinaliter sulcata, dense pubescens.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—South-West Division: 10–20 miles N. of Northampton, in sandy heath, 3rd Sept. 1947, *S. T. Blake* 18140.

Associated with *S. clandestinus* *S. T. Blake* and resembling it in habit, but differs in the paler green leaves often twisted when dry, brown (not purple) sheaths, longer spikelets with hispidulous glumes and more elongated internodes of the rhachilla, well developed hypogynous bristles much longer than the nut, and the sulcate ellipsoid (not obovoid) nut.

Lepidosperma persecans *S. T. Blake*; species nova, affinis *L. gladiato* Labill. a quo culmis foliisque marginibus scaberrimis, foliis planis, spiculis 3–4-floris, nuce minore laevi, squamis hypogynis haud caudatis praecipue differt.

Herba dura perennis, e rhizomate crasso caespites laete virides magnos haud densos efformans. *Culmi* stricti, fere erecti, 1.2–1.6 (fide notulis in schedula usque 2 m.) alti, 5–9 mm. lati (sub panícula distincte angustati), ancipites, secus medium utrinque convexi, lateribus latis compressis, marginibus acutis serrulato-scaberrimi, omnino crebre striati asperuli. *Folia* flabellata, plura, culmo breviora et eo dissimilia, 8–15 mm. lata, haud rigida, ancipitia, inferne secus medium leviter convexa lateribus planis latis, sursum omnino plana tenuia, apice ustulato obliqua vel incurva, omnino striata, marginibus scabra, hic inde inter nervos quasi septata; vaginae breves, plus minusve brunneae vel atrobrunneae, nitidae, haud resinosae. *Bracteae* inferiores breviter vaginantes, foliiformes, erectae vel obliquae, paniculis partialibus suis breviores, raro ima longior; bracteolae setaceae, basi vaginantes, omnino scabrae. *Panícula* ambitu ovata vel lanceolata, plerumque continua densa, 9–16 cm. longa, 3–4 cm. lata, e fasciculis ramorum 7–9 constructa; axis fere

recta, plus minusve triquetra, antice canaliculata, angulis scabra; paniculae partiales erectae, singulae vel binae (raro ternae) e bractea vix exsertae (interdum basi inclusae), pyramidales vel oblongae, compositae, densae. *Spiculae* congestae, sessiles, plus minusve patulae, ovoideae vel oblongae, 5–6 mm. longae, 3-florae, summa fertilis, interdum flore quarto tabescente addito. *Glumae* 7–8, atrobrunneae, canescentes, ovatae, breviter mucronatae, superiores anguste obtusae, apice plus minusve excurvae et ibi marginibus involutae, inferiores gradatim breviores obtusiores apice plus minusve rectae. *Squamae hypogynae* ovatae, acuminatae, apice minutissime ciliolatae, tertiam partem nucis adaequantes. *Nux* ovato-oblonga angulis latis leviter costulata, 2.7–3 mm. longa, 1.4–1.5 mm. lata, demum brunneo-olivacea nitidula, laevis; stylobasis brevissima obtusissima, pubescens.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—South-West Division: W. of Manjimup, bank of Donnelly R., tending to form stands near the water's edge, about 135 m., 29th August 1947, *S. T. Blake* 18033.

This is a tall species evidently allied to *L. gladiatum* Labill. and *L. effusum* Benth., differing from both in that the culms are extremely scabrous on the margins, the leaves are flat and thin for the greater part, and the nut is narrower with a very smooth even surface. In general the spikelet has 7 glumes, of which I and II are empty, III and IV subtend bisexual but functionally sterile flowers, V is empty, VI subtends the fertile flower and VII is empty and tabescent; occasionally VII subtends an abortive flower, and in one case a large empty glume was found intercalated between VI and VII.

Lepidosperma rostratum *S. T. Blake*; species nova, ob nucem pyriformem longe rostratam alte tricostatam atque costas marginales sursum transversim junctas valde distincta.

Herba perennis, caespitosa, viridis, rhizomate brevi. *Culmi* stricte erecti, 20–30 cm. alti, manifeste pluricostulati ceterum subteretes vel subtrigoni vel plus minusve biconvexi, 0.85–1.2 mm. crassi, laeves, enodes. *Folia* culmo subconformia nisi multo breviora angustiora, apice fere plana acutissima haud rigida, saepius fere ad vaginas redacta; vaginae albidae vel stramineae vel pallide brunnescentes, nitidae. *Bractearum* breves vel brevissimae, ima interdum elongata sed inflorescentiam raro adaequans. *Inflorescentia* depauperata, angustissima, spiciformis, 2.5–5 cm. longa, usque ad 4 mm. lata; rami inferiores e vagina bractearum suarum interdum exserti et spiculas sessiles usque ad 4 gerentes, vel omnes unispiculati e bracteis haud exserti. *Spiculae* sessiles, alternae, contiguae, demum ovoideae, 4–4.5 mm. longae, teretes, biflorae, flore inferiore sterili. *Glumae* 4–5, dorso atro-brunneae, lateribus pallidiores rubido-striatae, tandem omnino plus minusve griseae, minute strigillosae, anguste ovatae, inferiores excurvo-aristatae, superiores mucronulatae. *Squamae hypogynae* crassae, oblongae vel lanceolatae, acutae vel obtusae vel dentatae, partem nucis angustatam admodum superantes. *Nux* subpyriformis, ob stylobasem rostrata, manifeste 3-costata omni costa prope basem in tuberculo grosso exeunte et sub apice nucis cum costa transversa undulata conjuncta, lateribus plus minusve lacunosa, cum stylobasi suboblonga fere 1 mm. alta 3.1–3.2 mm. longa, 1.6–1.8 mm. lata.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—South-West Division: Cannington, near Perth, swampy heath on sand, alt. 6–7 m., in wetter places, 22nd August 1947, *S. T. Blake* 17988.

Very distinct by reason of the prominently rostrate pyriform nut prominently ribbed at the angles and with a transverse ridge joining the angles below the style-base. The long style-base is unique among the Australian species, and both the shape of the nut and its ridges are unique in the genus.

Tetraria microcarpa S. T. Blake; species nova, in subgenus *Eu-Tetrariam* (C. B. Clarke) Kükenth. sect. *Mucronatosquamas* Kükenth. inserenda, sed ob culmum sub inflorescentia uninodem, folia basalia plura longissima, paniculas partiales capituliformes, spiculas parvas trifloras, nucem pro ratione minutam, valde distincta.

Herba perennis, dense caespitosa, 20–30 cm. alta; rhizoma breve, ramosum, nodosum. *Culmi* erecti, 1.1–1.3 mm. crassi, sub inflorescentia stricti vel fere stricti, obtuse trigoni, crebre striati, uninodes, ruguloso-asperuli sursum angulis scabridi, glabri, prope basem valde bulboso-incrassatam plurifoliati. *Folia* culmum superantia, viridia, plana vel plus minusve complicata, in apicem setaceum plus minusve flexuosum longe attenuata, 2–2.5 mm. lata, carinata et utrinsecus costam supra impressam nervis 3 primariis striata, marginibus costaque sursum scabra; vaginae longae, arctae, ea folii caulini clausa striata antice sursum membranacea, ore oblique secto ciliolata, eae foliorum basaliū antice apertae marginibus albo-membranaceae, tandem in fibrillis vix reticulatis fissae, infimae elaminatae duriores brunnescentes. *Bracteae* foliaceae, inferiores vaginantes inflorescentiam longe superantes, superiores gradatim breviores evaginantes. *Inflorescentia* angusta, plus minusve flexuosa, 5–7-nodis, 6–15 cm. longa, 7–10 mm. lata, interrupta, subspiciformis; paniculae partiales ad capitula ovoidea plus minusve composita 7–10 mm. longa et 6–7 mm. lata plus minusve pedunculata redactae; pedunculi singuli, erecti, complanati, scaberuli, inferiores usque ad 4 cm. longi, superiores brevissimi. *Spiculae* dense aggregatae, lanceolatae, compressae, 3.5–4 mm. longae, 3-florae, floribus omnibus hermaphroditis sed flore supremo solum fertili. *Glumae* 6, distichae, membranaceae, pallide sanguineo-striatae, carinato-naviculares, lanceolatae, acutae vel acuminatae, inferiores breviores plus minusve mucronatae. *Torus* prominens, incrassatus. *Setae hypogynae* 2, tenuissimae, minutae, vel 0. *Stamina* 3; antherae lineares auriculis basalibus brevissimis connectivo longe producto subulato, in toto circa 1.5 mm. longae. *Stylus* glaber, sursum tenuis, basem versus incrassatus; stigmata 3. *Nux* turgide obovoidea, tricostata, breviter valideque stipitata, laevis, stylobasi inclusa 1.5 mm. longa, 0.9 mm. lata; stylobasis pyramidalis vel depresso-pyramidalis, crassa, angulis super nucis humeros decurrentibus.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—South-West Division: 10–20 miles N. of Northampton, in sandy heath, 3rd September 1947, S. T. Blake 18138.

This is the fourth species of this predominantly African genus to be found in Australia; it is well distinguished by the 1-noded culms, numerous long basal leaves, and clustered small 3-flowered spikelets with tiny nuts.

Scleria laxa R.Br. Prodr. 240 (1810).

Scleria filipendula S. T. Blake in Proc. Roy. Soc. Queensl. lviii, 49 (1947).

When the account of *S. filipendula* was drawn up a few years ago, the interpretation of *S. laxa* and allied species was based largely on Domin's remarks in *Biblioth. Bot.* xx, heft 85, 488-9 (1915) and his references to C. B. Clarke's disposition of specimens in the Kew Herbarium, duplicates of some of which were available at Brisbane. Shortly after the paper was published, a fresh enquiry was undertaken when studying recently collected specimens from the Northern Territory and Brass's specimens from New Guinea. The material at Melbourne and Sydney was examined at the same time. Duplicates of the specimens cited by Domin under *S. laxa* were found not to agree sufficiently with R. Brown's original description, which called for a plant with smooth, glabrous stems and leaves, few-flowered subnodding panicles with unisexual sub-1-flowered spikelets, and rugose nuts. No Australian form has yet been observed to have less than three flowers in the male spikelets; otherwise four collections were found which agreed with this description, namely: a *Dallachy* specimen from Rockingham Bay in Melbourne, a *Banks and Solander* specimen with imperfect nuts in Sydney, and *Blake* 5233 (type of *S. filipendula*) and *Blake* 9381 (from Cairns) in Brisbane. Brown would have seen the Banks and Solander collection, and (unless all the material had imperfect nuts) it would be reasonable to presume that he regarded it as representing *S. laxa* since it does not agree with his descriptions of other species. Through the kindness of Dr. J. Ramsbottom, I have examined a photograph and fragment of Brown's type in the British Museum of Natural History. There seems no doubt that *S. filipendula* is conspecific with Brown's species and that Clarke and Domin had completely misinterpreted it, even though Clarke's annotation-slip is attached to the type-sheet.

The plants referred to *S. laxa* in my earlier paper now appear to me to be only glabrescent states of *S. rugosa* R.Br. Glabrous and more or less hairy states are known now in several species, and the presence or absence of indumentum appears to have no value for the discrimination of species. There is also some doubt as to the status of *S. benthamii* C. B. Clarke; my earlier interpretation of a specimen at Brisbane as a duplicate-type appears to have been erroneous, and the specimen now appears to be one of *S. tessellata* Willd. var. *debilis* Benth. The discussion of this and other problems must be postponed; some of these involve misidentifications which originated in the early part of last century.



Blake, Stanley T. 1950. "Notes on Australian Cyperaceae. VII." *The Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* 60, 45–53. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.351737>.

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