

xandra), sowie die von WOOD (& EVANS) *Natal Plants* III, 1 (1900), 27 pl. 225 beschriebene und abgebildete Pflanze. Alle diese Pflanzen haben unterseits filzige Laubblätter (WOOD, pag 27 ex descr.!) und stumpfe Pappusschuppen, was nur für *St. insignis*, nicht für *B. subulata* zutrifft. - Weitere Exsikkaten der *St. insignis* sind: REHMANN 6147a (von Houtbosh in Transvaal, *B. seminivea* det. Klatt), JUNOD 707 und 2819 (Shilouvane in Transvaal), WILMS 786 (von Lydenburg in Transvaal), richtig als *B. insignis* [Harv.] O. Hoffm.), ALICE PEGLER 1345 (Albany Museum, Grahamstown, richtig als *St. insignis*) und ROGERS 19 161 (von Baberton in Transvaal, leg. Thornecroft, unbestimmt).

Alabastra diversa.

Mit Beiträgen von

J. Th. Henrard (Leiden) und Fr. Kränzlin (Wolfenbüttel)

PLECTRACHNE, a new genus of grasses

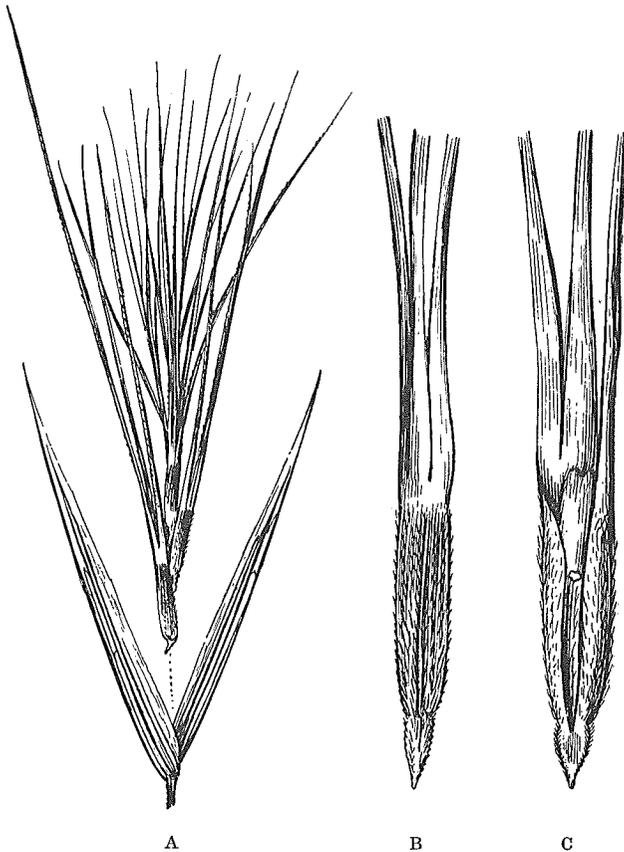
by J. Th. Henrard (Leiden).

The family of the grasses, although very natural, is not easy to divide into tribes and agrostologists have always tried to find a system that gives sufficient satisfaction. Unfortunately we have not yet such a system and therefore many genera are placed arbitrarily in one of the tribes accepted by agrostologists. In the large tribe of the *Poaceae*, a plant with but one flower is thus placed in the subtribe of the *Agrostae*; if such a grass has a fertile valve with 3 awns, we recognize it as an *Aristida*. Sometimes there occur in this genus spikelets with two well-developed flowers, but such spikelets are rarely found here and there in a panicle mixed with the normal spikelets. But the question becomes very different if we find such a grass with all the spikelets normally many-flowered. Having found a grass with such characters in the Zurich Herbarium, kindly received for study from Prof. H. SCHINZ, I had to place it in one of the tribes of the grasses but it did not agree with one of the genera hitherto known. The tribe of the *Chlorideae* we can exclude because the spikelets are sessile there or short-pedicelled on a usually continuous rachis, forming a digitate or racemose inflorescence. The tribe is however as to the different other characters very unnatural and in the future other characters will be observed to bring more light in this tribe.

Our new grass has an open or somewhat contracted panicle with pedicelled spikelets and we have to place it in one of the two remaining tribes, the *Aveneae* or the *Festuceae*. These tribes are easily recognized if we have before us typical representatives of them, but there occur many grasses where it is quite impossible to place them

in one of these two tribes, I have been unable to limit them sharply and if we will give characters to limit them we have to accept many exceptions. In our different manuals we find the characters to separate them, but if we compare all the genera we find easily that many of them are very anomalous and placed in them but arbitrarily.

The new genus, I will describe here, has a panicle somewhat resembling the panicle of a *Bromus*, a *Trisetum*, an *Avena* or a *Danthonia*; all the spikelets are well-developed and many-flowered, the glumes surpassing the flowers with exception of the long awns of the lemmas, each flower has a very distinct and very characteristic callus extending into a sharp point, the point turned away from the rachis, the palea is as long as the body of the lemma, which bears at the



A = Spikelet of *Plectrachne*. Magnified 3 times.

B = Fertile valve of lowermost flower, from the back. Magnified 9 times.

C = The same, ventral side. Magnified 9 times.

summit without articulation 3 very long stiff awns. Each flower taken from the spikelet very much resembles the flower of an *Aristida*. In Australia there occur *Aristidas* where the stiff awns are very broad at the base. Indeed, if the spikelets of the new grass had been one-flowered, I should not have hesitated to describe the plant as a very distinct new species of the genus *Aristida*, all the spikelets are however about 6-flowered and the palea, always minute in the genus *Aristida*, is well-developed and about as long as the body of the lemma, which is densely pubescent all over, a character never observed in the genus *Aristida*. In *Aristida* there are only two species where the body of the lemma is provided with some scattered long hairs.

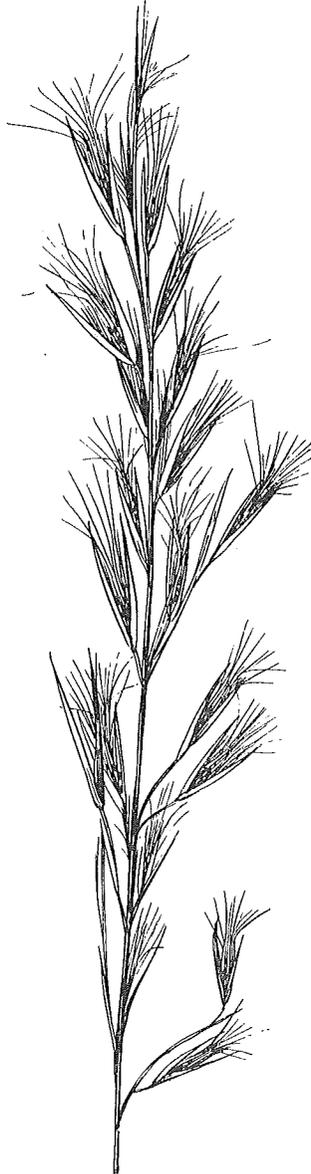
We have thus to look for our genus in the *Aveneae* or *Festuceae*, if we compare the characters in our manuals and with the key in ENGLER'S Pflanzenfamilien, we see that our grass agrees with characters of the *Aveneae*, in the lemmas which are shorter than the glumes, but differs in being not dorsally awned or if apically awned only with two flowers without prolongation of the axis. Other characters agree better with the *Festuceae*, where the glumes are generally shorter than the lemmas. In the tribe of the *Festuceae* there is however a subtribe *Pappophoreae* where the glumes are often much longer than the lemmas and especially the genus *Scleropogon*, placed by HACKEL in this subtribe, much resembles in different characters our new genus. *Scleropogon* is however dioecious with very unequal glumes but the sharp bearded callus as in *Aristida*. In the genus *Pappophorum* all the lemmas have 9 or more awns at the summit and the panicles are dense and spike-like.

All the characters taken here into consideration prove that our new genus is anomalous in both *Aveneae* and *Festuceae*. I should like to place the genus provisionally in the tribe of the *Aveneae* on account of the very long glumes, surpassing all the lemmas, the florets being all alike except the reduced upper ones. In this tribe we must place the genus next to *Danthonia*, where the central awn is not only much longer than the lateral ones but moreover strongly twisted. I have named the new genus *Plectrachne* on account of the prolongation of the callus which is very sharp and turned away from the axis.

PLECTRACHNE

nov. Gen.

(*Gramineae-Aveneae*.) Panicula composita. Spiculae pluriflorae, compressae, cuneatae, floribus arcte imbricatis, summo sterili. Pedicellus infra glumas continuus, rhachilla supra glumas steriles articulata. Glu-



Inflorescence of *Plectrachne Schinzii* Henrard.
Natural size.

mae steriles duae, lanceolatae, acutae, aequilongae, spiculam (sine aris-
tis) superantes, carinatae, glaberrimae, multinerves, nervis anastomo-
santibus. Glumae fertiles lineari-lanceolatae, lamina ipsa dense hirsuta,
dorso subcarinatae, callo obconico, acuminato, breviter denseque bar-

bato, quasi calcaratae, apice triaristatae, aristae longissimae, rectae, subaequilongae, inferne glaberrimae, valde dilatatae, haud tortae, superne scabrae. Palea magna, gluma vix brevior, lanceolata, obtusissima, truncata, apice emarginata, bicarinata, marginibus angustis inflexis, ciliata. Lodiculae minutae, angustae, ovarium subaequant. Stamina tria. Ovarium glabrum, anguste ovato-cuneatum vel oblongum. Styli gracillimi, stigmata plumosa.

Affinis *Danthoniae* quae differt a nostro, arista centrali spiraliter torta, lateralibus multo minoribus, etiam remote accedit ad genera africana *Pentameris*, *Pentastichis*, *Crinipes* et *Streblochaete*, sed ab omnibus toto coelo diversa. Species unica, australiae-borealis incola.

Plectrachne Schinzii Henrard, nov. spec.

Partes basales ignotae. Culmi glaberrimi, teretes, striati, laeves, nodis glabris. Vaginae summae glaberrimae, laevissimae, striatae, folia desunt. Panicula exserta vel basi vagina summa obvoluta, oblongo-lanceolata, circa 15 cm longa, plus minus 3 cm lata, subcontracta, rhachi communi obtuse angulata, scaberula, ramis singulis vel binis, inferioribus 5—6 cm longis, paucispiculatis, superioribus brevibus, saepe 1—2-spiculatis, erectis, rhachi subtereti, scabra. Spiculae longissime pedicellatae, subconfertae, lanceolato-lineares, cum aristis circa 2½ cm longae, 4 ad 5 mm latae, 6—7-florae, floribus arcte imbricatis, summo sterili, in specimenibus a me inspectis demum stramineae, rachilla subfragili, subarticulata, articulis pilis brevis sparsis instructis. Glumae steriles aequales, lineari-lanceolatae, 2 cm longae, sensim acuminatae, carinatae, glaberrimae, multi (ad 9-) nerves, nervis anastomosantibus, glumae fertiles (aristis haud computatis) 1 cm longae, apice triaristatae, dorso carinatae, pilis rectis erecto-patulis ciliatae, marginibus inflexis, callo acuto circa 1 mm longo, breviter barbato; aristae inferne valde dilatatae, centralis 2½ cm longa, laterales 2 cm longae. Palea anguste lanceolata, plana, bicarinata, marginibus inflexis, apice obtusa et emarginata, pubescens, ciliata, antherae 1½ mm longae, lineari-lanceolatae, rubro-fuscae, filamentis gracillimis. Ovarium glabrum, styli graciles, stigmatibus laxe plumosis, albidis.

AUSTRALIA: North Territory, prope Lander Creek, leg. G. F. Hill no. 344, 14. VI. 1911. Typus speciei in Herb. Zurich, ex National Herb. Victoria, Melbourne.

Orchidaceae quaedam novae

von Fr. Kraenzlin, Wolfenbüttel.

Spiranthes aguatacensis Rehb. f. in Bonplandia III (1855) 214.

Huc me iudice *Spir. guyanensis* A. Cogn. in Flora Bras. III Pt. 4