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Three New Taxa of *Chascolytrum* (Poaceae, Pooideae, Poeae) from South America

Liliana Essi

Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, Centro de Educação Superior Norte—RS, Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Av. Independência 3751, Bairro Vista Alegre, Palmeira das Missões, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. lessi@smail.ufsm.br

Tatiana Teixeira de Souza Chies and Hilda Maria Longhi Wagner

Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Instituto de Biociências, Departamento de Botânica, Av. Bento Gonçalves 9500, 91501-970, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. tatiana.chies@ufrgs.br; hmlw@plugin.com.br

ABSTRACT. Two new species and one new variety of Chascolytrum Desv. (Poaceae) are described and illustrated. Chascolytrum latifolium Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner and C. juergensii var. angustilemma Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner occur in the southern Brazilian highlands, while C. altimontanum Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner occurs in the Bolivian highlands. Chascolytrum latifolium is related to C. subaristatum (Lam.) Desv., but differs mainly by the wider leaf blades and by some characteristics of the palea. Chascolytrum altimontanum is related to C. paleapiliferum (Parodi) Matthei and C. subaristatum, the main differences being the presence of flattened trichomes at the lemma base and the shape of the spikelets. Specimens of all these new taxa were included in a parallel molecular analysis, with the results supporting the new taxa as genetically divergent from the closest morphologically related species. In addition, Briza juergensii Hack. is transferred to Chascolytrum for the new combination C. juergensii (Hack.) Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner.

Resumo. Duas espécies novas e uma variedade de Chascolytrum são descritas e ilustradas nesse artigo. Chascolytrum latifolium Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner e C. juergensii var. angustilemma Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner ocorrem em campos de altitude do sul do Brasil, enquanto C. altimontanum Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner ocorre em regiões de altitude da Bolívia. Chascolytrum latifolium assemelha-se a C. subaristatum (Lam.) Desv., diferindo desse principalmente pelas lâminas foliares mais largas e por algumas características da pálea. Chascolytrum altimontanum assemelha-se a C. paleapiliferum (Parodi) Matthei e C. subaristatum, distinguindo-se destas principalmente pela presença de tricomas achatados na base do lema e pela forma das espiguetas. Exemplares de todos esses taxa foram incluídos em análise

molecular paralela, sendo que os resultados corroboram os novos taxa como geneticamente divergentes das espécies mais semelhantes morfologicamente. Além disso, *Briza juergensii* Hack. é transferida para *Chascolytrum* para a nova combinação *C. juergensii* (Hack.) Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner.

Key words: Chascolytrum, IUCN Red List, Poaceae, Poeae, Pooideae, South America.

According to Matthei (1975), Chascolytrum Desv. (Poaceae, Pooideae, Poeae) included six South American species related to the Eurasian genus Briza L. Before Matthei (1975), Chascolytrum was considered at the rank of genus (Desvaux, 1810) or section (e.g., Bentham & Hooker, 1883), or as a subgenus of Briza (e.g., Parodi, 1920), so that its taxonomic circumscription was controversial. A phylogenetic molecular analysis performed using three DNA regions (ITS, GBSSI, and trnL-trnL-trnF) has resulted in a broader circumscription for the genus Chascolytrum (Essi et al., 2008), with 22 species, including the three new taxa described here.

1. Chascolytrum altimontanum Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner, sp. nov. TYPE: Bolivia. Chuquisaca: Yamparaez, on the ascent, ca. 3 km E toward La Cienaga, 16 Mar. 1996, *J. R. I. Wood 10841* (holotype, LPB; isotype, K). Figures 1, 4B.

Haec species lemmatibus gibbis conspicue alatis et paleis coriaceis elliptico-orbicularibus usque orbicularibus *Chascolytro subaristato* (Lam.) Desv. et *C. paleapilifero* (Parodi) Matthei similis, etiam *C. subaristato* spiculis cylindricis et *C. paleapilifero* trichomatibus capitatis in dorso palearum similis, sed ab ambabus speciebus trichomatibus spathulatis copiosis in parte basali lemmatum, etiam a *C. paleapilifero* spiculis cylindricis differt.

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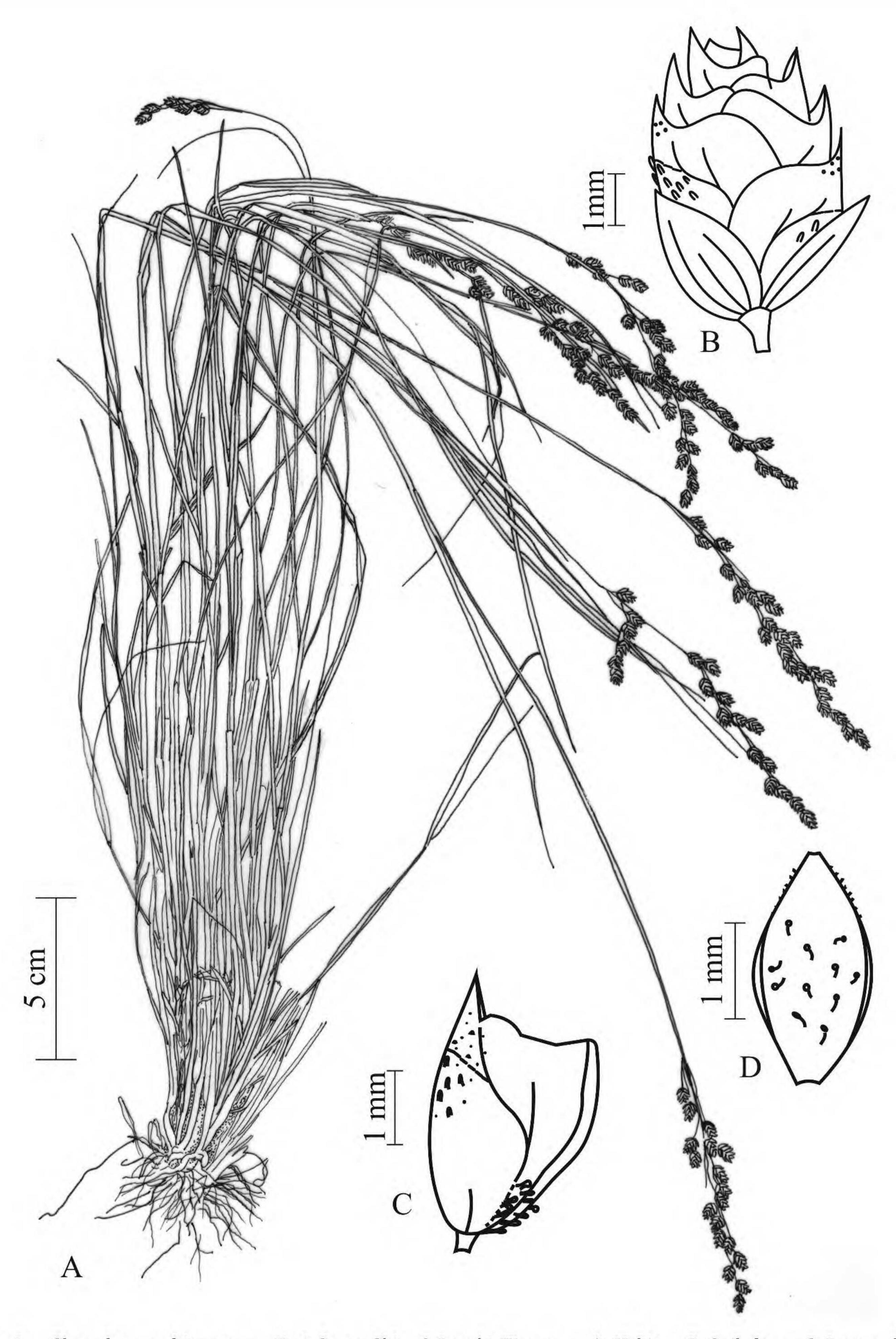


Figure 1. Chascolytrum altimontanum Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner. —A. Habit. —B. Spikelet. —C. Lemma, lateral view. —D. Palea, dorsal view. Drawn from the type Wood 10841 (LPB). Parts B–D drawn by L. Essi.

culms not thickened; basal innovations extravaginal. Panicle contracted, erect, 3–7 cm; pedicels smooth. Leaf sheaths glabrous, smooth, margins non-overlapping; leaf blades linear, $7-45~\mathrm{cm}\times0.8-2.2~\mathrm{mm}$, flat

Plants 45–77 cm high; basal internodes of the or convolute, glabrous; ligules 1.8–2.5 mm, acute. Spikelets $5.5-6 \times \text{ca.} 4 \text{ mm}$, 5- to 8-flowered, cylindrical, oblong; florets imbricate, obscuring the

rachilla; glumes herbaceous, convex, glabrous, smooth, acute or obtuse, subequal; lower glume 2.3- $3 \times 0.9-1.5$ mm, 5-nerved; upper glume $2.3-3 \times 1-$ 1.5 mm, 5-nerved; lemmas chartaceous to coriaceous, dorsiventrally compressed, with a gibbous pale back, back strongly distinct from the broad margins, cordate to slightly attenuate at the base, 7-nerved, midvein non-salient on the back, glabrous or with sparse flattened trichomes on the back, truncate or acute at the apex, muticous or mucronate, margins with dense flattened trichomes at the base, inrolled or not at the base, without oil glands; lower lemma $2.5-3.8 \times 1.2-$ 2 mm; paleae elliptic-orbicular to orbicular, coriaceous, with capitate trichomes between the keels, occasionally deciduous at maturity, keels ciliolate at the upper half; lower palea $1.5-1.8 \times 1-1.2$ mm; lodicules flabelliform; stamens 1 or 2. Caryopsis suborbicular, planoconvex; hilum elliptic to linearelliptic.

Distribution and habitat. Chascolytrum altimontanum occurs in the Bolivian highlands. This species is found on dry hill slopes, between 2200 and 3600 m.

IUCN Red List category. The total area of occurrence of Chascolytrum altimontanum is ca. 60,000 m², comprising the specimens found in ca. 11 locations. However, there is no precise information available for the size or fragmentation of the populations. Collection labels commonly indicate this grass as rare, but it is also necessary to evaluate the quality of the habitats. A factor that hinders the evaluation of the species status is the fact that C. altimontanum at first sight is similar to C. subaristatum (Lam.) Desv., which is a common grass broadly distributed across South America and extending to Guatemala and Mexico. Thus, the size of the populations may be overestimated. Because population size and extent have not been established or monitored for this species in any part of its range, it must be classified as Data Deficient (DD) according to IUCN Red List criteria (IUCN, 2001).

Notes. Many herbarium specimens of Chascoly-trum altimontanum have been identified either as C. subaristatum or C. paleapiliferum (Parodi) Matthei. Indeed, C. altimontanum is morphologically related to both species, with the three species sharing similar palea and lemma shapes, and coriaceous palea. Because the new species presents capitate hairs between the palea keels, some individuals were misidentified as C. paleapiliferum. However, the new species differs by the shape of the spikelets and by the presence of dense, flattened trichomes at the lemma base. The geographic distribution is also distinctive: C. altimontanum is restricted to the Bolivian

highlands while *C. paleapiliferum* is mainly restricted to the Argentinian highlands. The presence of dense flattened trichomes at the lemma base is also a remarkable difference between *C. altimontanum* and *C. subaristatum*. The latter species is widely distributed in South America, extending to Mexico, in a broader range of habitats. A collection of this new species (*Wood 10768*, LPB) was included in molecular analyses, which supports *C. altimontanum* as genetically distant from both *C. paleapiliferum* and *C. subaristatum* (Essi et al., 2008).

Paratypes. BOLIVIA. Chuquisaca: on E side of Cerro Chataquila near Punilla (Sucre-Ravelo), 9 Apr. 1995, J. R. I. Wood 9665 (LPB); Tomina, Lampacillas, ca. 30 km S of Padilla toward Monteagudo, 31 Dec. 1994, J. R. I. Wood 9068 (K, LPB); Oropeza, ca. 2 km beyond Sucre airport toward Ravelo, 25 Feb. 1996, J. R. I. Wood 10768 (K, LPB); Vamporz, Sucre, SE of the town, 17 Apr. 1994, J. R. I. Wood 8314 (K). Cochabamba: Mizque a 10 km S of Totora toward Aiquile, 19 Dec. 1995, J. R. I. Wood 9461 (K); Tapacarí, entre Parotani y Challa, 21 Feb. 1979, Ceballos, Charpin, Casas & Bermejo BO-445 (G); Tiraque, on pass just W of Sacabambilla on old Cochabamba-Santa Cruz rd., 2 Feb. 1996, J. R. I. Wood 10486 (LPB); Prov. Chapare, Parque Tunari, bosque de Polylepsis, 23 Feb. 1991, J. Hensen 998 (LPB); 51 km W of Cochabamba, 3100 m, 25 Mar. 1981, S. Renvoize & T. Cope 4082 (K). Santa Cruz: Caballero, at summit of rd. on Loma Grande, ca. 6-8 km W of Comarapa on rd. to Siberia, 13 Mar. 2002, J. R. I. Wood 17802 (K); Vallegrande, ca. 16 km from Vallegrande on rd. to Masucuri, 11 Feb. 1996, J. R. I. Wood 10601 (LPB); Voladerogebirge, 29 Jan. 1928, C. Troll 1101 (B, M).

2. Chascolytrum latifolium Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner, sp. nov. TYPE: Brazil. Santa Catarina: Urubici, Faz. Arno Philippi, 7 Dec. 2006, H. M. Longhi-Wagner, A. Zanin & L. Souza 10228 (holotype, ICN; isotypes, FLOR, K, MO). Figures 2, 4A.

Haec species spiculis cylindricis et lemmatibus aristulatis late alatis *C. subaristato* (Lam.) Desv. similis, sed ab eo lamina foliari generaliter latiore et paleis elliptico-lanceolatis membranaceis trichomatibus longis secus costas ornatis (nec elliptico-orbicularibus usque orbicularibus, coriaceis) praecipue differt.

Plants 27–87 cm high; basal internodes of the culms not thickened; basal innovations extravaginal. Leaf sheaths glabrous, margins non-overlapping; leaf blades linear-lanceolate, 7.5–40 cm \times (4–)7–12 mm, flat, glabrous; ligules 1.5–4 mm, truncate. Panicle open, pendulous, 9–15 cm; pedicels scabrous. Spikelets 5–6 \times (1.5–)4–5.1 mm, 4- to 8-flowered, subcylindrical, oblong; florets imbricate, obscuring the rachilla; glumes herbaceous, convex to naviculate, glabrous, smooth, subequal; lower glume 3.2–3.9 \times 0.6–1.5 mm, 3-nerved; upper glume 3.2–4 \times 1.1–1.5 mm, 3- to 5-nerved; lemmas herbaceous, slightly laterally com-

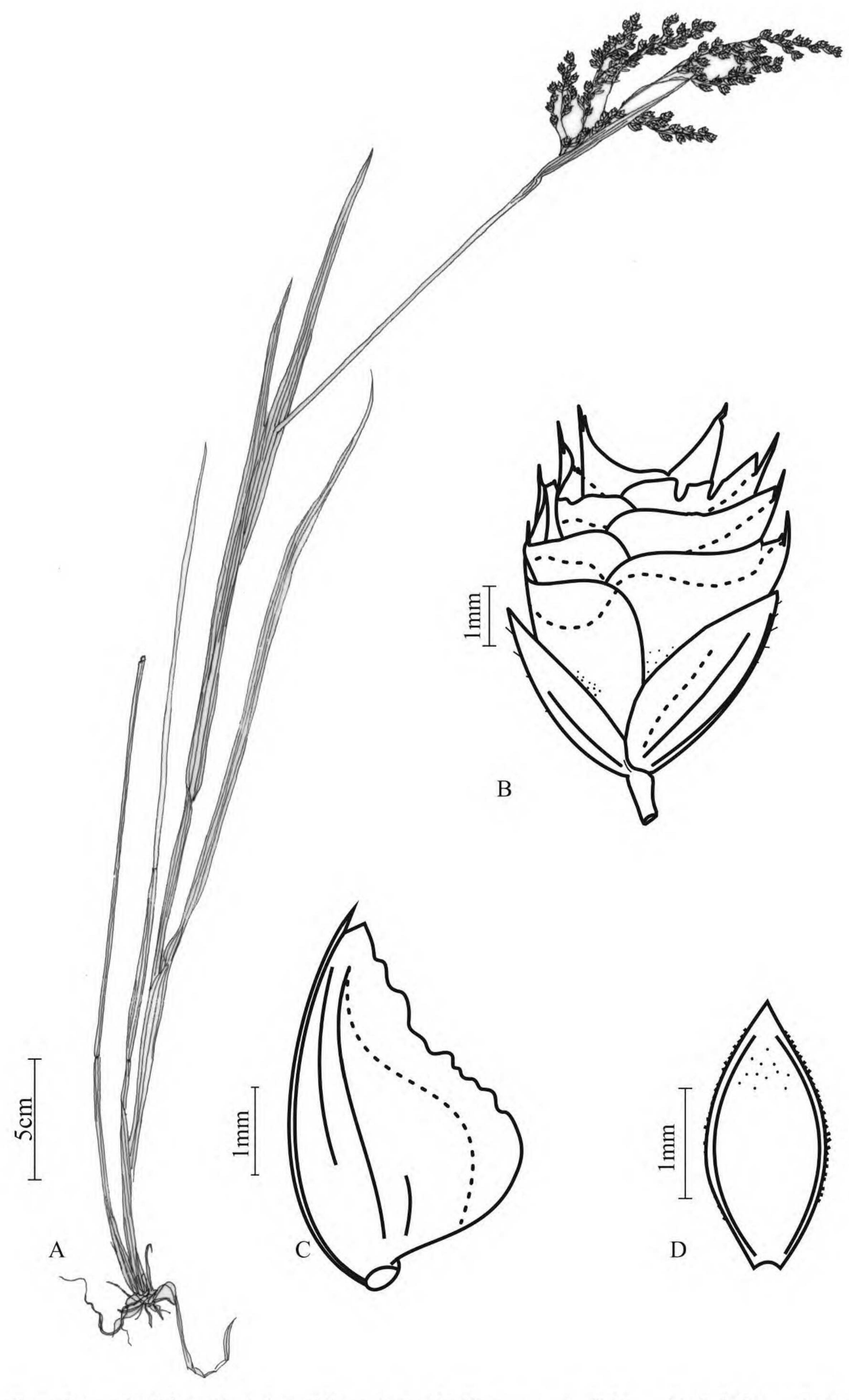


Figure 2. Chascolytrum latifolium Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner. —A. Habit. —B. Spikelet. —C. Lemma, lateral view. —D. Palea, dorsal view. Drawn from the type Longhi-Wagner, Zanin & Souza 10228 (ICN). Parts B–D drawn by L. Essi.

pressed, without a gibbous back, with broad margins base, 7-nerved, midvein non-salient on the back, glabrous, acute, truncate, or bidentate at the apex,

mucronate, margins glabrous, smooth or scaberulose at not distinct from the back, slightly attenuate at the the apex, not inrolled at the base, without oil glands; lower lemma $3.9-4 \times 1.4-2.5$ mm; paleae ellipticlanceolate, membranous, glabrous and smooth between

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the keels, keels ciliate; lower palea $2.8–3.2 \times 1.1–1.7$ mm; lodicules linear; stamen 1. Caryopsis suborbicular, planoconvex; hilum elliptic.

Distribution and habitat. Chascolytrum latifolium occurs in southern Brazil. This species is found in wet soils with species of Sphagnum L. in high-altitude grasslands, mainly in southeastern Santa Catarina, at altitudes of 1400–1580 m, and also in northeastern Rio Grande do Sul, at ca. 800 m.

IUCN Red List category. Chascolytrum latifolium is considered Near Threatened (NT) according to IUCN Red List criteria (IUCN, 2001), but approaches the criteria Blab(iii) and B2ab(iii) for the category of Vulnerable (VU). The extent of occurrence of this species is ca. 27,000 km², but it occurs only at high altitudes in five areas, and the area of occupancy is estimated to be much smaller due to population fragmentation. In the area called Campo dos Padres, in Santa Catarina State, this species is more common and the populations have more individuals. However, collections in other locations are rare and the populations are smaller. Of concern is the reduction of the preserved habitats where this species occurs, but one positive action is already in progress: the area where this species is more abundant is being proposed as a national preservation area named Parque Nacional do Campo dos Padres, which will help in its preservation.

Notes. This new species seems to be a morphological link between the genera Chascolytrum and Poidium Nees, as accepted by Matthei (1975). Chascolytrum latifolium presents wide lemmas, as in typical Chascolytrum, but the paleae are ellipticlanceolate and membranous, as seen in *Poidium*. The delicate consistency of the lemma is also remarkable. The wide, flat, shiny green leaf blades and the pendulous, dense inflorescences of this new species are easy to recognize in the field. A collection of this new species (Essi, Guglieri & Hefler 201, ICN) was included in a phylogenetic molecular analysis (Essi et al., 2008) and was found to be closer to C. juergensii (Hack.) Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner (= Poidium juergensii (Hack.) Matthei, sensu Matthei, 1975) than to C. subaristatum (sensu Matthei, 1975).

Paratypes. BRAZIL. Rio Grande do Sul: São José dos Ausentes, Monte Negro, 2 Dec. 2003, L. Essi, A. Guglieri & S. Hefler 159 (ICN). Santa Catarina: Bom Retiro, Campo dos Padres, 16 Dec. 1948, R. Reitz 2389 (HBR), 18 Dec. 1948, R. Reitz 2553 (HBR, S), 23 Jan. 1957, L. B. Smith & R. Reitz 10311 (HBR, RB); Bom Retiro, Campo dos Padres, betw. Faz. Campo dos Padres & Faz. Santo Antônio, 21 Nov. 1956, B. Smith & R. M. Klein 7804 (HBR, NY); São Joaquim [Urubici] Morro da Igreja, Faz. Morrinhos, Campestre do

Malacara, 22 Jan. 1960, J. Mattos 7448 (BLA); São Joaquim, Campestre do Malacara, Faz. de Morrinhos, 22 Jan. 1960, J. Mattos 8462 (HAS); Parque Nac. São Joaquim, 2001, H. M. Longhi-Wagner & Garcia 7377 (ICN); Urubici, Faz. Arno Philippi, 7 Dec. 2006, H. M. Longhi-Wagner, A. Zanin & L. Souza 10229, 10230 (ICN); Urubici, Morro da Igreja, em frente à Cavalgada, próx. do quartel, 4 Dec. 2003, L. Essi, A. Guglieri & S. Hefler 201 (ICN).

The following key distinguishes the newly described species of *Chascolytrum* from morphologically related species:

KEY TO DESCRIBED SPECIES AND MORPHOLOGICALLY RELATED SPECIES OF CHASCOLYTRUM IN SOUTH AMERICA

- 1b. Paleae coriaceous, glabrous or ciliolate on the keels; lemmas chartaceous to coriaceous; leaf blades $6\text{--}50~\text{cm}\times0.8\text{--}6.5~\text{mm}$.

 - 2b. Paleae with capitate trichomes between the keels, occasionally deciduous at maturity; lemmas with or without flattened trichomes on margins at the base.

Chascolytrum juergensii belongs to a group of species with a very controversial circumscription at the genus level, referred to by Matthei (1975) as the Briza complex. Based on morphology only, there was no consensus about the best circumscription for the genera belonging to this group (e.g., Poidium, Briza, and Chascolytrum), and thus a molecular phylogenetic analysis was performed (Essi et al., 2008). Considering the results of this analysis, a new circumscription was proposed for the complex, maintaining the Eurasian species in the genus Briza, but including all the South American species studied into a single genus, Chascolytrum, so that this genus is considered now in a broader circumscription (Chascolytrum s.l.). New combinations are therefore required for Chascolytrum s.l. (Essi et al., submitted), including the new combination made here.

3. Chascolytrum juergensii (Hack.) Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner, comb. nov. Basionym: Briza juergensii Hack., Verh. K.K. Zool.-Bot. Ges. Wien 65: 76–77. 1915. Poidium juergensii

(Hack.) Matthei, Willdenowia 8: 114. 1975. TYPE: Brazil. Rio Grande do Sul: Pinheiral, Mpio. Rio Pardo, 70 m, 1909, *C. Jürgens* (holotype, W).

- 3a. Chascolytrum juergensii var. juergensii.
- **3b.** Chascolytrum juergensii var. angustilemma Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner, var. nov. TYPE: Brazil. Rio Grande do Sul: Cambará do Sul, perto do Fortaleza, 29°04′54.6″S, 050°00′14.4″W, 1 Dec. 2003, *L. Essi, A. Guglieri & S. Hefler 122* (holotype, ICN; isotypes, K, MO). Figure 3.

A varietate typica lemmatibus angustioribus non gibbosis lateraliter distincte alatis differt.

Plants 28–70 cm high; basal internodes of the culms not thickened; basal innovations extravaginal. Leaf sheaths glabrous, margins non-overlapping; leaf blades linear-lanceolate, 7–23 cm \times 2–7 mm, flat, glabrous; ligules 1–2.5 mm, obtuse to truncate. Panicle open, erect or pendulous, 4.5–15 cm; pedicels smooth. Spikelets $5.2-6 \times 2-3.2$ mm, 4- to 6flowered, laterally compressed, elliptic-lanceolate; florets imbricate, obscuring the rachilla, or loosely imbricate, rachilla apparent; glumes herbaceous, naviculate, glabrous, smooth, subequal; lower glume $2.8-3 \times 0.5-0.9$ mm, 3-nerved; upper glume $3-3.3 \times$ 0.7-1 mm, 3- to 5-nerved; lemmas chartaceous or coriaceous, laterally compressed, pale, without a gibbous back, margins narrow, not distinct from the back, rounded to slightly attenuate at the base, 5nerved, midvein non-salient on the back, lemmas pilose, acute at the apex, muticous, margins glabrous or sparsely pilose, inrolled or not at the base, without oil glands; lower lemma $3.1-3.9 \times 1-1.2$ mm; paleae lanceolate, membranous, pilose between the keels, keels ciliate; lower paleae $2-2.5 \times 0.7-1$ mm; lodicules linear-lanceolate; stamens 1 to 3. Caryopsis elliptic, concavo-convex; hilum elliptic.

Distribution and habitat. Chascolytrum juergensii var. angustilemma occurs in Brazil, mainly in Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, the southernmost states in Brazil. There are only two records of variety angustilemma for other states (one record from Minas Gerais and another from São Paulo), and its distribution is concentrated in Rio Grande do Sul, while the typical variety is distributed more broadly in other southern states of Brazil and in Colombia. Variety angustilemma is found in high-altitude wet grasslands surrounded by Araucaria angustifolia (Bertol.) Kuntze (Araucariaceae) forests; variety juergensii is also found in wet soils, but in open grasslands.

IUCN Red List category. Chascolytrum juergensii var. angustilemma is assessed here as Near Threatened (NT) according to IUCN Red List criteria (2001), but approaches criterion B2ab(iii) for the category Vulnerable (VU). The extent of the taxon's occurrence is ca. 550,000 km², but the population is severely fragmented. There are about 11 locations where this variety was found, with most populations concentrated in Rio Grande do Sul State. This Red List assessment is principally due to the reduction of habitat because the areas containing Araucaria angustifolia (an endangered tree species, det. Farjon [IUCN, 2009]), where the new variety usually occurs, are being progressively fragmented. It is also important to point out that the grasslands in northeastern Rio Grande do Sul State are being reduced due to forestation with species of *Pinus* L., a new commercial activity of high ecological impact in this ecosystem.

Notes. Matthei (1975) mentioned that the Colombian specimens of Chascolytrum juergensii present slightly narrower lemmas than the Brazilian material. However, C. juergensii var. angustilemma lemmas are even narrower than the Colombian material. Longhi-Wagner (1987: 37) previously emphasized this difference, provisionally naming this new taxon as "Briza aff. juergensii." The distribution of the new variety, as currently known, is restricted and generally associated with populations of Araucaria angustifolia. Plants are shorter than those of C. juergensii var. juergensii, ranging to 28–70 cm in height, with more delicate culms, while the typical variety usually presents 65–150 cm in height.

A collection of this new variety (Longhi-Wagner 8759, ICN) was included in a molecular phylogenetic analysis (Essi et al., 2008) and was found to be distinct from the typical variety.

Paratypes. BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Camanducaia, Monte Verde, 22 Jan. 2002, H. M. Longhi-Wagner 8009 (ICN). Rio Grande do Sul: Bom Jesus, sede, 300 m após entroncamento propre Vacaria, 29 Nov. 1975, Sampaio, H. M. Longhi & H. Winge 102 (ICN); Bom Jesus, Aparados da Serra, Dec. 1954, Barreto s.n. (BLA); Cambará do Sul, Itaimbezinho, 4 Jan. 1974, M. C. M. Hickenbick 92 (ICN), 28 Nov. 1975, M. T. S. Sampaio, H. M. Longhi & H. Winge 58, 59, 61, 62 (ICN), 7 Jan. 1977, M. T. S. Sampaio, H. Winge & L. Arzivenco 406, 411 (ICN), 15 Jan. 1979, C. T. Lemos & M. T. S. Sampaio 33, 36 (ICN), 1 Dec. 1981, H. M. Longhi-Wagner et al. 957, 959, 960 (ICN); Cambará do Sul, Itaimbezinho, Bela Vista, 1 Dec. 1981, H. M. Longhi-Wagner et al. 949 (ICN), A. M. Sacchet 28 (ICN); Cambará do Sul, Fortaleza dos Aparados, 28 Nov. 1975, H. M. Longhi, M. T. S. Sampaio & H. Winge 315, 325, 328 (ICN); Cambará do Sul, Parque Nac. da Serra Geral, 29°03'43.9"S, 049°57′23.7″W, 1 Dec. 2003, L. Essi, A. Guglieri & S. Hefler 135, 136, 139 (ICN); Cambará do Sul, a caminho do Parque, 17 Nov. 2004, L. Essi 295 (ICN); São Francisco de Paula, Itaimbezinho, 20 Feb. 1953, B. Rambo 54022 (B), B.

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Figure 3. Chascolytrum juergensii var. angustilemma Essi, Souza-Chies & Longhi-Wagner. —A. Habit. —B. Spikelet. —C. Lemma, lateral view. —D. Palea, dorsal view. Drawn from the type Essi, Guglieri & Hefler 122 (ICN). Parts B—D drawn by L. Essi.

Rambo s.n. (PACA); São José dos Ausentes, Monte Negro, 28°37′00.6″S, 049°47′42.1″W, 2 Dec. 2003, L. Essi, A. Guglieri & S. Hefler 152 (ICN). Santa Catarina: Água Doce, 6 Nov. 1971, L. B. Smith, R. M. Klein & G. Hatschbach 15700

(HBR); Bom Jardim, Curral Falso, 19 Nov. 1959, R. Reitz & R. M. Klein 8405 (HBR); Bom Jardim, Serra do Oratório, 9 Dec. 1958, R. Reitz & R. M. Klein 7642 (HB, HBR, L); Caçador, 2 Dec. 1964, L. B. Smith & R. M. Klein 13367