

**EUSTACHYS RETUSA (POACEAE), THE FIRST REPORT IN FLORIDA AND
A KEY TO EUSTACHYS IN FLORIDA**

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ABSTRACT

Eustachys retusa (Lag.) Kunth, Chlorideae:Poaceae, previously un-
reported in Florida has been found in the southern coastal plain of the
panhandle in Okaloosa County.

KEY WORDS: *Eustachys*, *Eustachys retusa*, tribe Chlorideae,
Poaceae, Florida

Eustachys Desv. in Nouv. is composed of ten species, principally of the New
World tropical savannas (Clayton & Renvoize 1986). Six species of *Eustachys*
are now found in Florida: *Eustachys distichophylla* (Lag.) Nees, *E. floridana*
Chapm., *E. glauca* Chapm., *E. neglecta* (Nash) Nash, *E. petraea* (Swartz)
Desv., and *E. retusa* (Lag.) Kunth. Long & Lakela (1971), Wunderlin (1982),
Clewell (1985), nor Anderson (1984, 1986, 1988) have listed *E. retusa* as occur-
ring in Florida. It has been recorded in Georgia, New York, South Carolina,
and Texas (McKenzie *et al.* 1987). *Eustachys retusa* can be confused with
small or depauperate specimens of *E. distichophylla*. *Eustachys distichophylla*
is usually a much larger and more robust plant with more numerous panicle
branches, much longer, flexuous spikes, and upper, acute, sterile florets. The
following key will separate the taxa of *Eustachys* found in Florida (modified
from McKenzie *et al.* 1987).

KEY TO *EUSTACHYS* IN FLORIDA

1. Lateral veins of the fertile lemma glabrous. *E. glauca*
1' Lateral veins of the fertile lemma pubescent. 2

- 2.(1') Keel of fertile lemma glabrous. 3
 3.(2.) Spikelets shorter than 2.1 mm; sterile floret widely cuneate,
 truncate. *E. retusa*
 3' Spikelets 2.4 mm or longer; sterile floret oblanceolate, acute. .
E. distichophylla
 2' Keel of fertile lemma ciliate. 4
 4.(2') Spikelets shorter than 2.5 mm. *E. petraea*
 4' Spikelets longer than 2.5 mm. 5
 5.(4') Spike usually 1-3; spikelets 3 mm or longer; fertile lemma
 awn 0.6 mm or shorter. *E. floridana*
 5' Spikes usually 4-9; spikelets 3 mm or shorter; fertile lemma
 awn 0.6 mm or longer. *E. neglecta*

Specimens collected: UNITED STATES. Florida: Okaloosa Co.: 12 July 1991, *J.K. Wipff 2108 & S.D. Jones* (FLAS,GA,TAES,TEX,SWSL,VDB,US,USF). Northwest corner of Leonard Burnes Road and U.S. 90, between U.S. 90 and the railroad tracks; 10.8 miles (17.3 kilometers) NE on U.S. 90 from its jct. with FL 87, NE of Milton. This taxon was abundant along U.S. 90 in an open disturbed roadside with the soils of the Lakeland-Troup-Alpin association. The site is nearly level at about 200 feet (61 m) elevation with acid sand throughout and a very thick sandy surface layer over a loamy subsoil. The geology of the site is of the Citronelle (Pc) formation; Pliocene series (mid-upper Miocene). Associated taxa include *Paspalum notatum* Flügge, *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers., *Aristida* sp., *Eragrostis* spp., *Richardia brasiliensis* Gomes., *Senna* sp., *Rubus* sp., *Ipomoea quamoclit* L., and *I. coccinea* L.

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