

## (1580) Proposal to conserve the name *Scleria reticularis* with a conserved type (*Cyperaceae*)

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(1580) *Scleria reticularis* Michx., Fl. Bor.-Amer. 2: 167. 1803. [*Cyper.*] *nom. cons. prop.*  
 Typus: U.S.A., North Carolina, Onslow, Camp Lejeune Marine Camps Base, 0.15 mile due South of Weil Point Road, 0.2 mile West of junction with French's Creek road. 14 Sep 1990. *LeBlond R. J. 1651* (NCU). (*typ. cons. prop.*)

During a recent study of the collections at P, we discovered that what appears to be the original type specimen of *Scleria reticularis* ("Michaux s.n.?, Hab. in Carolina") does not correspond to the original description of the species nor to recent and past usage of that name. Although "*Scleria reticularis*" is written on its label by Michaux, the specimen can easily be identified as *Scleria triglomerata* Michx., a species differing from *S. reticularis* in the presence of a white crust covering the hypogynium and the smooth nutlets, among other characters. The explanation of this conflict is unknown. The specimen is similar in appearance to all other Michaux types; the type of *S. triglomerata*, also at P, matches the description of that species, so a simple switch of labels is not involved. In a report of a search for Michaux types at P in May 1989, Fairey (ASB Bull. 37: 99. 1990) said "Unfortunately his *S. reticularis* was not found", but it is not impossible that Fairey was simply discounting a specimen so manifestly in conflict with the original description. No other Michaux specimen of *S. reticularis* is known to exist and this conflict between original specimen and protologue can only really be resolved by this proposal to conserve *S. reticularis* with a new, conserved type.

The name *Scleria reticularis*, whether used in a strict sense for the plants with glabrous nutlets (among other characters) or used in a broad sense for the plants with glabrous or pubescent nutlets (*Scleria reticularis* var. *pubescens* Britton, *Scleria muehlenbergii* Steud.), is probably the *Scleria* name with the most widespread use in the Americas. *Scleria reticularis* s.l. occurs in eastern, central and southern U.S.A., Mexico, Central America,

West Indies, Colombia, Venezuela, Trinidad, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Ecuador, Brazil, Bolivia and Argentina. *Scleria reticularis* s.s. has a restricted, primarily northern, distribution and is completely absent from the tropics. The name has been used in Core's monograph of the American species of the genus (*Brittonia* 2: 81. 1936), in numerous regional American floras, e.g., Adams (in Davidse & al., *Fl. Mesoamericana* 6: 484. 1994), Camelbeke & Goetghebeur (in Steyermark & al., *Fl. Ven. Guayana* 4: 647. 1998), Gleason (New Britton & Brown III. *Fl. N.E. U.S. & Canada* 1: 292. 1963), Leon (*Flora de Cuba* 1: 234. 1946), Luceño & al. (*Anales Jard. Bot. Madrid* 55: 98. 1997), Reznicek & al. (in *Flora of North America* Ed. Comm., *Fl. N. Amer.* 23: 242–251. 2003), and Small (*Man. S. E. Fl.* 1: 189. 1972), and in some published catalogues and checklists, e.g., Camelbeke & al. (*Monogr. Syst. Bot.* 75: 434. 1999), Shetler & Skog (*Monogr. Syst. Bot.* 1: 183. 1978). It is also to be used in the forthcoming *Flora of the Guianas*, and *Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Bolivia*. It must be clear from this limited list of citations that nomenclatural stability would not be served if no new, conserved type were proposed. Obviously the proposed type represents *Scleria reticularis* s.str.

If this proposal fails, authors recognizing the species in the broad sense will have to use the name *Scleria muehlenbergii* Steud. (*Nomencl. Bot.* 2: 543. 1841) (not "*muhlenbergii*", cf. Art. 60.6 of the *ICBN*, Greuter & al. *Reg. Veg.* 138. 2000). *Scleria muehlenbergii* Steud. has been used only sporadically (e.g., Core, *Caldasia* 5(21): 27. 1948. Core, *Wrightia* 3(7): 156. 1965. Core, *Mem. New York Bot. Gard.* 12(3): 65. 1965) because that name was generally placed in synonymy of *Scleria reticularis* Michx. or *Scleria setacea* auct. The relatively uncommon eastern North American plant now called *Scleria reticularis* in the strict sense by some authors would be without a name.

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