New Combination: Dichanthelium scribnerianum

JUSTIN R. THOMAS¹

The combination "Dichanthelium scribnerianum (Nash) Gould" has been used in a few references recently (e.g. Mohlenbrock 2014; Wilhelm and Rericha 2017) and ascribed to Gould (1974). However, Gould (1974) did not make or imply such a combination, but did make the new combination D. oligosanthes var. scribnerianum in the process of elevating the genus Dichanthelium from Panicum. More specifically, Gould (1974) intended to make Fernald's (1934) Panicum oligosanthes var. scribnerianum into Dichanthelium oligosanthes var. scribnerianum. Because the combination has not been made within Dichanthelium at the species level, I publish it here.

Dichanthelium scribnerianum (Nash) J.R. Thomas comb. nov.

BASIONYM: *Panicum scribnerianum* Nash, Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 22(10): 421. 1895. Based on *Panicum scoparium* S. Watson, Gray, Man. Ed. 6: 632. 1890 non Lamarck (1798).

SYNONYMS: Panicum macrocarpon Torr. Fl. N. Middle United States 143. 1823 non Leconte (1819). Panicum scoparium var. minor Scribn, Grasses Tennessee pt. 2, 48 (1894). Panicum oligosanthes var. scribnerianum (Nash) Fernald, Rhodora 36(423): 80. 1934. Dichanthelium oligosanthes var. scribnerianum (Nash) Gould, Brittonia 26(1): 60. 1974. Dichanthelium oligosanthes subsp. scribnerianum (Nash) Freckmann & Lelong, Sida 20(1): 170 (2002).

TYPE: USA. Pennsylvania. Bradford Co., Wysox: J. Carey s.n. (lectotype: GH).

Lectotypification was done by Hitchcock and Chase (1910) via a convoluted but accurate route, which they detail well. The lectotype was originally called *P. pauciflorum*, as was another specimen by a different collection from Georgia which is the type for *D. oligosanthes* (Hitchcock and Chase 1910). Gould and Clark (1978) inaccurately cited the holotype as the type specimen of *Panicum macrocarpon* Torr. (not Leconte). While this is the holotype for that name and that name is a synonym for *D. scribnerianum*, it is not the type for *D. scribnerianum*.

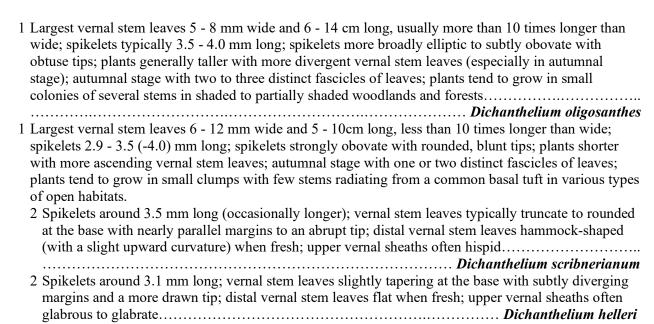
Contemporary interpretations of this taxon such as in the floristic works of Mohlenbrock (2014) and Wilhelm and Rericha (2017), as well as my own personal experience and research within the genus, support recognizing this entity as a distinct species. It differs markedly and consistently from *D. oligosanthes* in terms of morphology and habitat. *Dichanthelium scribnerianum* is less rhizomatous, has wider leaves that are more oblong in shape with more truncate bases, and its upper leaves have an ascending curvature compared to the straight and narrower leaves of *D. oligosanthes*. There is also a strong tendency for the autumnal form of *D. scribnerianum* to consist of one or two fascicles of leaves close together along the stem and for *D. oligosanthes* to have three well-spaced fascicles of leaves. More diagnostic characters are included in the key below, which also includes distinguishing characters for the closely related *D. helleri*.

¹ JUSTIN R. THOMAS — NatureCITE, 1530 E. Farm Road 96, Springfield, MO 65803. email: justin.thomas@naturecite.org

7

Dichanthelium scribnerianum typically occurs in dry open fields and degraded portions of dry grassland and woodland systems, whereas D. oligosanthes typically occurs in mesic woodland and forest communities of variable ecological complexity and stability. In terms of geographical range, in North America D. oligosanthes is mostly restricted to the southeastern Gulf Coast Plain but for disjunct populations around the Great Lakes region. Dichanthelium scribnerianum occurs commonly across the middle of the United States, and less commonly into northeastern North America, with occurrences into the southwest and northwest. Accurate distribution maps that represent the contemporary interpretations of Dichanthelium in general are lacking.

KEY TO THE *DICHANTHELIUM OLIGOSANTHES* GROUP IN MISSOURI



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Caleb Morse, Collection Manager at the R.L. McGregor Herbarium at the University of Kansas, after my having annotated all their *D. scribnerianum*, discovered that the name was not valid. My thanks to him for pointing it out. Tremendous thanks also to Anton Reznicek at the University of Michigan for clarifying the convoluted nomenclatural history of this taxon.

LITERATURE CITED

Fernald, M.L. 1934. Realignments in the genus *Panicum*. Rhodora 36(423): 80. 1934.

Gould, F.W. 1974. Nomenclatural changes in Poaceae. Brittonia 26(1): 60. 1974.

Gould, F.W. and C.A. Clark. 1978. *Dichanthelium* (Poaceae) in the United States and Canada. Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden 65: 1088–1132.

Hitchcock, A.S. and A. Chase. 1910. The North American species of *Panicum*. Contributions of the U.S. National Herbarium 15: 1–396.

Mohlenbrock, R.H. 2014. Vascular Flora of Illinois: A Field Guide, 4th edition. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press.

Wilhelm, G. and L. Rericha. 2017. Flora of the Chicago Region: A Floristic and Ecological Synthesis. Indianapolis: Indiana Academy of Science.