

**PANIC GRASSES OF SOUTHEASTERN MISSOURI  
— ONE NEW AND ONE REDISCOVERY**

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**ABSTRACT**

Documentation is provided for *Dichanthelium dichotomum* subsp. *roanokense* as new to the flora of Missouri (Scott and Stoddard counties) and for the rediscovery of *Dichanthelium dichotomum* subsp. *yadkinense* in the state (previously known from Reynolds Co., rediscovered in Stoddard Co.). Both taxa occur in the Mississippi Embayment area.

In 2016, while conducting routine identifications and reviewing specimens filed as *Dichanthelium dichotomum* (L.) Gould in the Missouri Botanical Garden Herbarium (MO), several unusual specimens were encountered and are evidence of the rare occurrence of two taxa in Missouri. The names used here follow the taxonomy of Flora of North America (Freckmann & Lelong 2003). Both taxa, however, are treated at species rank by LeBlond (2017), which is reasonable considering that their broad sympatry extends into Missouri.

**New to the Missouri flora**

*Dichanthelium dichotomum* subsp. *roanokense* (Ashe) Freckmann & Lelong (= *Dichanthelium roanokense* (Ashe) LeBlond) occurs on the coastal plain from Delaware to southeastern Texas and in the West Indies. This subspecies “grows in marshes, wet pinelands, wet woods, and the borders of swamps, a relatively uncommon subspecies” (Freckmann & Lelong 2003). It was not included in the flora of Missouri (Yatskievych 1999), but its discovery in swamps of the Mississippi Embayment of Missouri was expected. Subsp. *roanokense* is distinct in its lack of bearded nodes and its relatively small spikelets.

**Specimens examined. Missouri. Scott Co.:** Locally common in swale of sand prairie, T28N, R14E, S27, SW4 Charleston Baptist Church Camp, on S side of State Hwy 77 ca. 3 mi SE of Interstate 55 exit in Benton, 12 Jul 2002, *Laatsch s.n.* (MO). **Stoddard Co.:** Otter Slough Conservation Area along extension of County Rd 686 about 50 meters W of parking area, Powe Quadrangle, T24N, R9E, SE, SE, Sec. 8. 36.73197° N, 90.10150° W, caespitose, in dried-down disturbed wetland between extension of County Rd 686 and flatwood forest, with *Spiranthes praecox*, *Dichanthelium scoparium*, *Festuca paradoxa*, *Steinchisma hians*, *Juncus biflorus*, *J. brachycarpus*, and *J. effusus*, 13 Jul 2014, *Brant 7646* (LINU, MO).

**Rediscovery of *Dichanthelium dichotomum* subsp. *yadkinense***

*Dichanthelium dichotomum* subsp. *yadkinense* (Ashe) Freckmann & Lelong (= *Dichanthelium yadkinense* (Ashe) Mohlenbrock; treated as *Panicum dichotomum* var. *yadkinense* (Ashe) Lelong in Yatskievych 1999) was collected from an acid gravel-wash community on 30 May 1992 at Johnson’s Shut-Ins State Park, Reynolds Co., Missouri (Heumann 1993). This population and the site were destroyed by the Ameren Power Company’s dam failure above Johnson’s Shut-Ins State Park. Attempts to relocate populations near the original site have failed. A second collection, documented here, confirms the existence of subsp. *yadkinense* in southeastern Missouri. Subsp. *yadkinense* has bearded lower nodes and larger spikelets.

**Specimen examined. Missouri. Stoddard Co.:** Otter Slough Conservation Area N and NE of headquarters area. T24N, R9E, Central area Sec. 17, Powe Quadrangle, caespitose, in overflow woods, 16 Sep 2001, *Brant 4787* (MO).



Figure 1. *Dichantherium dichotomum* subsp. *roanokense*. Brant 7646 from Stoddard County. Missouri Botanical Garden Herbarium imaging lab.

*Dichantheium dichotomum* subsp. *yadkinense* occurs in much the same habitats and has a similar distribution as subsp. *roanokense* (Freckmann & Lelong 2003) and was expected in similar old coastal plain habitats in Missouri. Its presence in an acid gravel-wash community in the St. Francois Mountains of Missouri (Reynolds Co., as reported by Heumann 1993) is unusual. There are two recent anecdotal reports of collections (J.R. Thomas & Rick Gray, pers. comm. 2018) of this taxon from Missouri, but the collections are not available for examination.

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