ON THE ALLEGED PRESENCE OF *CAREX AETHERODES* (CYPERACEAE) IN SERBIA

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*Carex atherodes* Spreng. (Cyperaceae) is a species from the Subarctic and Temperate Northern Hemisphere, which occurs in N America, Europe and northern Asia (Govaerts *et al.*, continuously updated). From E and N Europe and the Caucasus it is known from eleven countries, in most of which it is a rare species: Armenia, Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Sweden, and Ukraine (Koopman 2015). It is absent in W and S Europe. However, Jiménez-Mejías *et al.* (2012) mentioned it for Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia. Peculiarly they mentioned that “Both studied vouchers showed short hairs only over the ligule; while, in contrast, utricles, stems, leaves and remains of basal sheaths were complete glabrous.” Both authors of the current communication know *C. atherodes* well from Poland, where it is in the northwestern Province of Zachodniopomorskie rather abundant at some places (Rutkowski 2014). The cited sentence above drew our attention and curiosity, as in Poland we have never seen such glabrous material. Therefore we asked for a loan of

Based on the comparison of the Serbian material with material of *Carex atherodes* from Poland we have come to the conclusion that the Serbian material is not *Carex atherodes*. The Serbian plant is bold, no hairy leaf sheaths, the utricles are half as long as those of *C. atherodes* and the female glumes differ (see Table 1). On the other hand it is very probably not *Carex pseudocyperus* either, with two male spikes at the top and with the weird, very small female glumes. As the utricles are empty, we suppose it may concern a hybrid, with *Carex pseudocyperus* involved. According to Koopman (2015) there are two hybrids known of *C. pseudocyperus*, namely with *C. rostrata* Stokes [*C. ×justi-schmidtii* Junge] and with *C.

Table 1. Comparison of Serbian specimen with *C. atherodes*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Serbian plant</th>
<th><em>Carex atherodes</em> from Poland</th>
<th><em>Carex atherodes</em> (according to Reznicek &amp; Catling 2002)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hairiness of leaf sheaths</td>
<td>bold</td>
<td>hairy</td>
<td>hairy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ligule</td>
<td>10 mm long, rounded at the top</td>
<td>up to 45 cm</td>
<td>(6-)11-45 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflorescence length</td>
<td>17 cm</td>
<td>12-60 cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of male spikes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>2-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of female spikes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2-5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female glumes</td>
<td>very narrow, dark violet, with green midrib, not aristate</td>
<td>pale with a very long arista</td>
<td>lanceolate to narrowly ovate, apex acute, conspicuously scabrous-awned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utricles</td>
<td>5 mm, ribbed, teeth of beak upright, not spreading; empty; bold</td>
<td>10 mm; teeth of beak 3 mm, spreading, sparsely hairy</td>
<td>7-12 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
vesicaria L. [C. ×wolteri Gross]. Because of the dark glumes maybe even C. acutiformis Ehrh. is involved, although the hybrid of C. acutiformis and C. pseudocyperus is so far unknown to science, so not very probable. All three mentioned species, C. rostrata, C. vesicaria and C. acutiformis occur in Serbia, as does C. pseudocyperus. It is hard to say which hybrid it really concerns, as the material in BUNS is just one single flowering stem, some poorly collected material. However, Jermy et al. (2007) give a description and drawing of C. ×justi-schmidtii and at least our material does not look like that hybrid. Besides, the presence of Carex rostrata in Vojvodina is doubtful. There are a few old records (Zorkóczy 1896, as C. ampullacea; Prodán 1915). It has not been found in Vojvodina recently. In Serbia, C. rostrata has only been recorded for mountainous areas (pers. com. M. Niketić). It should not be excluded either that the material discussed here concerns some weird material of one of the mentioned species above, apart from C. pseudocyperus. Anyway, it is for sure not C. atherodes.

CONCLUSION

The Serbian material is not Carex atherodes. Originally it was determined as C. pseudocyperus, so we assume that it was growing in a clump, like C. pseudocyperus does, whereas C. atherodes grows rhizomatous. As long as there is no convincing material of C. atherodes from Serbia, this species should not be added to An Annotated Checklist of Vascular Flora of Serbia (Niketić & Tomović 2018), being mentioned erroneously by Jiménez-Mejías et al. (2012).

Acknowledgements

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REFERENCES


О НАВЕДЕНОМ ПРИСУСТВУ CAREX ATERODES (CYPERACEAE) У СРБИЈИ

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РЕЗИМЕ