

A NEW SPECIES OF *ARISTIDA* FROM EAST AFRICA

by W. D. CLAYTON *

ARISTIDA STENOSTACHYA W. D. Clayton, sp. nov.: affinis *A. adoensi* Hochst.,
sed glumis, lemmatibus aristisque longioribus differt

Gramen perenne caespitosum; culmi 60 - 120 cm. alti, laeves. Foliorum vaginae glabrae, internodiis longiores; ligula ad seriem ciliarum reducta, auriculis pilosis; laminae lineares, 20 - 60 cm. longae, convolutae, explanatae usque 4 mm. latae, glabrae vel basin versus supra sparse hirsutae. Panicula 25 - 30 cm. longa et 1 - 2 cm. lata, spiciformis vel prope basin plus minusve interrupta, plerumque in axillis ramorum glabri. Spiculae uniflorae; glumae subaequales, inferior plerumque paullo longior sed nonnunquam brevior, 10 - 19 mm. longae, lineares, membranaceae, uninerves, apice minute bidentatae mucronatae vel breviter aristulatae (aristula 1 - 2 mm. longa) inferior carina scaberula, superior glabra. Lemma subteres vel leviter a latere compressum, 10 - 13 mm. longum, glumis aequilongum vel paullo brevius, laeve vel nervo medio obscure scaberulum, sine articulo aristatum; callus 1 mm. longus, late linearis, anguste obtusus, glabrus; arista sine columna, vel nonnunquam columna leviter torta usque 4 mm. longa instructa, tripartita, ramis subaequalibus, 2 - 3 cm. longis, rigidis, scaberulis.

Habitat: Clearings and waste places in thicket and bushland; sea level to 1.400 m.

KENYA. Kitui: Tatta, 23 May 1955, Wilson 61. Teita: Tsavo National Park, 19 Jan. 1961, Greenway 9769. Kilifi: edge of Kilifi forest, 26 Oct. 1958, Bogdan 2328. Kwale: 5 km. north-west of Mackinnon Road, 13 Nov. 1961, Bogdan 5322; Mackinnon Road, 24 Jan. 1962, Pratt KS 14; Taru, 8 Sept. 1953, Drummond & Hemsley 3214.

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TANGANYIKA. Singida: Singida, 29 Oct. 1932, *Geilinger* 3345. Dodoma: Kazikazi, 16 May 1932, *Burt* 2552; Saranda to Manyoni, 17 Dec. 1935, *Burt* 5393 (K, holotypus). Iringa: Pangire to Ngongwa R., Aug. 1928, *Wolfe* 25.

ZAMBIA. Abercorn, 2 Apr. 1959, *McCallum Webster* A259. Mporokoso, Muzombwe, 19 Apr. 1961, *Phipps & Vesey-Fitzgerald* 3226.

Aristida stenostachya closely resembles *A. adoensis*, with which it has usually been confused. It is best distinguished by the lemmas which are 10-13 mm. long in our species, but only 6-8 mm. long in *A. adoensis*. Supporting characters are the longer glumes and awns (8 - 12 mm. and 1,5 - 2,2 cm. respectively in *A. adoensis*), and the glabrous axils of the panicle branches (usually bearded in *A. adoensis*).