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POA OPINATA (GRAMINEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM G. BINAIYA, CERAM, MOLUCCAS, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

VELDKAMP, J. F. 2017. *Poa opinata* (Gramineae), a new species from G. Binaiya, Ceram, Moluccas, Indonesia. *Reinwardtia* 16 (2): 73–75. — *Poa* species is described from Ceram, Moluccas and compared to *Poa languidior* from New Guinea.

Key words. Ceram, Moluccas, *Poa languidior*.

ABSTRAK

VELDKAMP, J. F. 2017. *Poa opinata* (Gramineae), jenis baru dari G. Binaiya, Seram, Maluku, Indonesia. *Reinwardtia* 16 (2): 73–75. Jenis *Poa* baru dipertelakan dari Seram, Maluku dan dibandingkan dengan *Poa languidior* dari Papua.

Kata kunci. Maluku, *Poa languidior*, Seram.

INTRODUCTION

Surprisingly, the temperate genus *Poa* L. (Gramineae – Poinae) is the largest one of the non-Bambusoid grasses in Malesia. In 1994, I enumerated 38 native species and three varieties occurring in Sabah (3, 1 endemic), Celebes (3, 1 endemic), and New Guinea (37). The great number of species in New Guinea would suggest a southern origin, but molecular studies point at continental Chinese affinities with sections *Homalopoa* Dumort. (e.g. *P. keysseri* Pilg.) and *Stenopoa* Dumort. (*P. papuana* Stapf, perhaps *P. crassicaulis* Pilg.). (L.J. Gillespie, Ottawa, & R.J. Soreng, Washington, D.C., or. comm.).

Thus far nothing had been seen from the Moluccas, where I expected the genus to occur on some high mountains with subalpine scrub- and grass vegetations for instance in Buru (G. Kapalatmada, 2,700 m) or Ceram (e.g. G. Binaiya, 3,030 m). However, when in Edinburgh for the Tenth Flora Malesiana Symposium (July 2016) I discovered a collection by C.C.G. Argent from the G. Binaiya, which turned out to represent an undescribed species.

This is one of a group of enigmatic Malesian species of *Poa* with only a single floret in the spikelet, whereby they cannot be identified with generic keys. The genus generally is regarded to have multi-flowered spikelets. One such species has therefore been described as an *Aulacolepis* Hack., non Ettingsh.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The morphological data were entered into my DELTA file on the genus *Poa* from which a diagnose, most similar taxa, and description was generated.

TAXONOMY

The species seems most similar to *Poa languidior* Hitchc. from New Guinea. The identification key to differentiate between two species is presented.

Poa opinata Veldk., *spec. nov.* — Type: Indonesia, Ceram, Manusela National Park, above Kanike village, G. Binaiya, 2,800 m alt., open situation at limestone ridge, 8 September 1987, Argent G. 87149A (holotype: E00772055; isotype: L, fragm.). Fig. 1.

Perennials, branching extra-vaginally at base. *Culms* tufted, weak, 15–40 cm long. *Sheaths* not articulating with the blades. *Ligules* unequal, the upper cauline longest, basal ligules collar-shaped, ca. 0.7 mm long, truncate, erose, the uppermost cauline ligules triangular, 0.7–1 mm long, apex acute. *Blades* flaccid, erecto-patent, flat to V-shaped, 6–7 cm × ca. 1 mm, smooth, acute. *Panicle* erect to secund, contracted, 5–12 cm × 5–15 mm, branches appressed to erecto-patent, smooth; lowermost ones solitary, 20–55 mm long, naked in the lower 0.5-th, with 3–5 spikelets. *Spikelets* 1- or 2-flowered, ca. 5 mm long, chasmogamous.



Fig.1. *Poa opinata* Veldk. *spec. nov.* Illustration from <http://data.rbge.org.uk/herb/E00772055>

The identification key to differentiate with *Poa languidior* Hitchc. from New Guinea

- 1 a. Panicle lax, 20–90 mm wide, branches patent to reflexed, lowermost panicle branches paired. Lower glume 1-nerved. First lemma 2.9–3.5 mm long. First palea keels scaberulous *P. languidior*
- b. Panicle contracted, 0.5–1.5 mm wide, branches appressed to erecto-patent, lowermost panicle branches solitary. Lower glume 3-nerved. First lemma 3.6–4 mm long. First palea keels smooth *P. opinata*

Glumes smooth, 3-nerved; lower glume 2–2.3 mm long, *ca.* 0.57 times as long as the lemma; upper glume 2.4–2.6 mm long. *Rachilla* smooth, lowest internode 0–1 mm long, process 1–1.5 mm long, distinctly shorter than the upper glume. *First lemma* 3.6–4 mm long, web absent, 3- or 5-nerved, midrib smooth or scaberulous, apex acute. *First palea* shorter than the lemma, keels smooth. *Anthers n.v.*

Distribution. Endemic to Ceram.

Etymology. “*Opinatus*” means “expected”, as the species forms a predictable stepping stone the occurrence of the genus between Borneo and Celebes on one side, and New Guinea on the other.

Ecology. Open situation on limestone ridge, 2,800 m alt.

Conservation status. Not known so far because only known from a single collection from a very remote place.

Notes. Preparing the description was hampered by the unfortunate fact that the specimens had been glued to the herbarium sheet, whereby characters like ligules and even spikelet pubescence were difficult to observe.

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The Keeper of the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens (E) is very much thanked for the loan of the type specimen. L. J. Gillespie, Ottawa, & R. J. Soreng, Washington, D. C. are thanked for the fruitful discussions we had on the infra-generic taxonomy of *Poa*.

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Scope. *Reinwardtia* is a scientific regular journal on plant taxonomy, plant ecology and ethnobotany published in June and December. Manuscript intended for a publication should be written in English.

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