

AN ADVENTITIOUS NEW DESCHAMPSIA SPECIES

by

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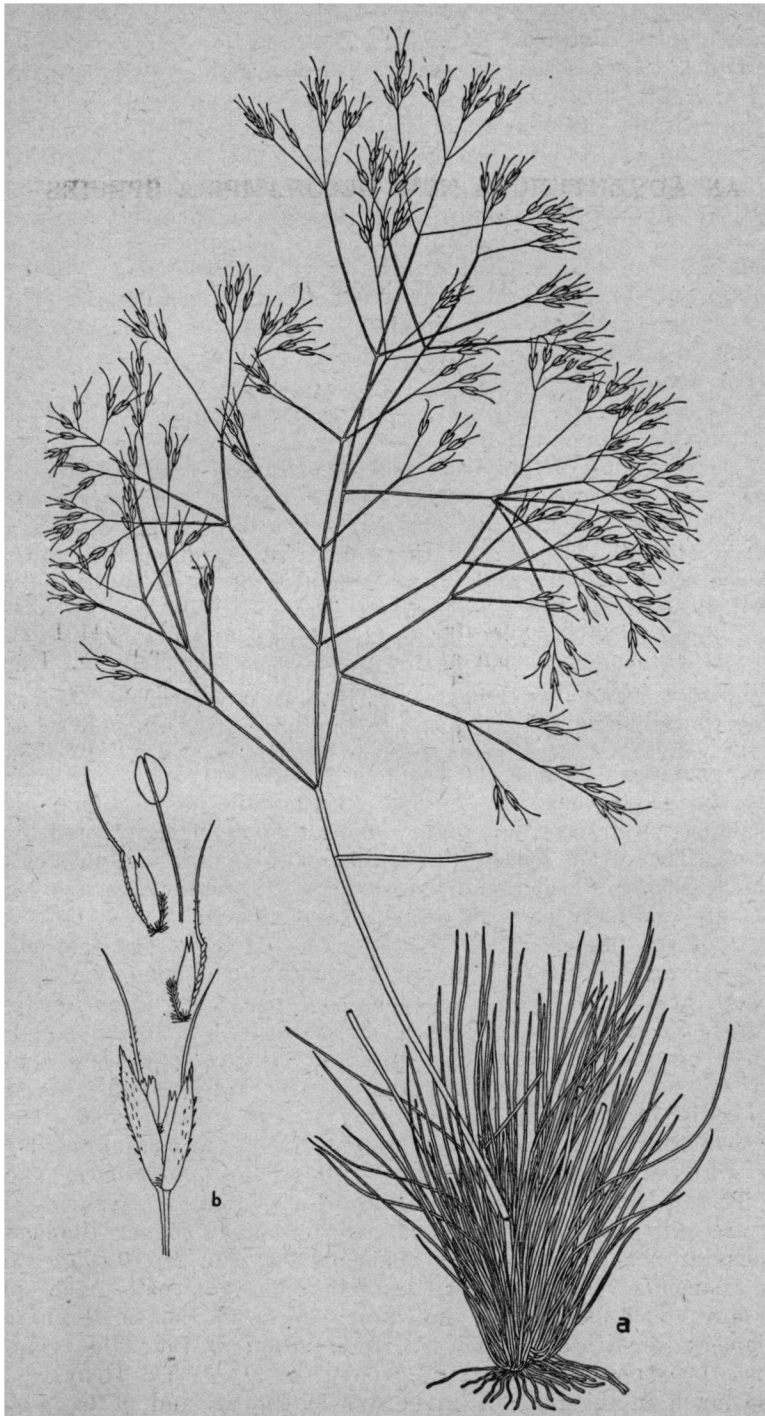
(Dordrecht)

(with 1 figure)

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On the 13th of October 1940 I found in the vicinity of a wool- and skinwork in Tilburg (The Netherlands, prov. N. Brabant) a sterile grasstuft, striking me by its peculiar habit. I transplanted it into my garden in Dordrecht and there it was flowering for the first time in June 1941, and in July it was collected to be dried. On the 4th of July 1941 I gathered one more fructifying specimen at the same locality in Tilburg. Doubtless the plant was a *Deschampsia* and my provisory identification was *D. media* R. et Sch.. Sending the material with this name to Dr P. Jansen in Amsterdam I got his reply: "Certainly not *D. media*. It is a species, unknown to me or, more probably, a variety of *D. flexuosa*".

This conclusion, however, seemed unacceptable to me. The habit of the sterile as well as the fertile plant differs strongly from that of *D. flexuosa*. The tuft is denser and harder, with thicker and shorter leaves. The panicle is longer, wider and more diffuse, the branchlets less flexuous, the culms are relatively short, as long as the panicle or at most $1\frac{1}{2}$ —2 times the length of the panicle (in *D. flexuosa* 4—5 times). The characteristics of the flower are decisive. The lower glume is 5 mm long, the upper one 6 mm, both of them overtop the lemma and palea of the enclosed flower (in *D. flexuosa* the glumes are little different in length and equaling or overtopped by the flowers). The stipe of the upper flower, remaining attached to the lower one, when the spikelet falls asunder, is densely pencilshapedly hirsute and 1.5 mm long (in *D. flexuosa* 0.6—0.8 mm). The upper flower bears a similar stipe of a fully rudimental third flower, in other words: the rachilla is produced behind the upper palea as a hairy bristle. These properties sooner recall *D. setacea* than *D. flexuosa*, but the anthers are very small, 0.3—0.5 mm long, on much longer filaments (*D. setacea* has anthers, 1.5 mm long, filaments 0.5 mm, *D. flexuosa*: anthers 1.8 mm, filaments very short). All this: the habit, the pale green spikelets without any touch of purple, brown or blue, and the small anthers on long filaments justifies a specific differentiation of the Tilburgian wool-adventive. I propose to name it, in honour of Dr J. Th. Henrard, whom I owe so much in the field of adventives in general and of *Gramineae* in particular:



Deschampsia Henrardii A. W. Kloos Jr. — a. habit $\times \frac{1}{2}$; b. spikelet with its two flowers ($\times 3\frac{1}{2}$) and a stamen ($\times 25$) — after type specimen.

Deschampsia Henrardii nov. spec.

Perennis. Dense caespitosa; folia basilaria fasciculata, setaceo-convoluta, glabra, 10—15 cm longa; culmi erecti vel geniculato-ascendinges cum paniculis 25—40 cm alti; panícula valde effusa, late-triangulata, 12—15 cm longa et lata, ramulis capillaribus, vix flexuosis, apicibus exceptis nudis; spiculae biflorae cum rudimento floris tertii, albivirescentes; glumae subaequales 5 et 6 mm longae, flores superantes; flore inferiore sessili, altero stipitato, tertio ad stipem reducto, omnibus stipitibus 1.5 mm longis, penicilliformiter barbatis; palea inferior apice denticulata, in dorso supra basin aristata, arista geniculata et inferne torta et brunnea; antherae minimae, 0.3—0.4 mm longae; filamenta antheris 3—4-plo longiora.

Patria ignota.

Typum legit A. W. Kloos Jr. Tilburg (Nederland) 14. VI. 1941, prope lanæ atque pellium officinam.

The new species differs from both *D. flexuosa* and *D. setacea* by its big, wide, stiffly effuse panicles on short culms, by the absence of colour (except pale green) in the spikelets, and by the very small anthers on long filaments; from *D. flexuosa* by the glumes overtopping the flowers, the high-placed second flower and the prolongation of the rachilla beyond this one. With regard to these properties it agrees with *D. setacea*, but in the rudimental third flower of the latter a small awn is always clearly discernable at the top of the hairy stipe, turned aside from the palea of the second flower and lightly bent up. This awn is wanting in *D. Henrardii*, the third flower being fully reduced to the hairy stipe, though its covering with hairs may be a little stronger than in *D. setacea*.