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Agrostis phillipsiae, a new name for *Agrostis diffusa* S.M.Phillips (Poaceae)

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Abstract

A new name, *Agrostis phillipsiae* R. Kr. Singh, Arigela & Ch. S. Reddy, is proposed here as a replacement name for *A. diffusa* S. M. Phillips, because the name is illegitimate and a later homonym of *A. diffusa* Host.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Agrostis* L. (family Poaceae, subfamily Pooideae, tribe Poeae, subtribe Agrostidinae) consists of about 198 species worldwide (Soreng et al. 2022, Vigosa-Mercado et al. 2023). The species of *Agrostis* are characterized by usually fragile habit, synflorescences of the panicle type, rachilla extension in the spikelet absent, spikelets 1-flowered, floret remarkably shorter than the glumes, usually 1/3–3/4 the length of the glumes,

rarely longer, lemma usually 5-nerved and palea minute, membranous, veinless, or absent (Vigosa-Mercado et al. 2023).



Figure 1: Holotype of *Agrostis diffusa* S.M. Phillips (K000367468, © Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew)

In Ethiopia, the genus *Agrostis* is represented by 8 species and 2 subspecies, namely *A. diffusa* S. M. Phillips, *A. gracilifolia* C. E. Hubb. subsp. *gracilifolia*, *A. gracilifolia* C. E. Hubb. subsp. *parviflora* S. M. Phillips, *A. keniensis* Pilg., *A. kilimandscharica* Mez, *A. mannii* (Hook. f.) Stapf subsp. *mannii*, *A. mannii* (Hook. f.) Stapf subsp. *aethiopica* S. M. Phillips, *A. quinqueseta* (Steud.) Hochst., *A. sclerophylla* C. E. Hubb. and *A. volkensii* Stapf, of which *A. diffusa*, *A. gracilifolia* subsp. *parviflora* and *A. mannii* subsp. *aethiopica* are endemic (Brown 2015, Masresha 2022, POWO 2023). However, the name *A. diffusa* S. M. Phillips (1986: 137) is illegitimate because it is a later homonym of *A. diffusa* Host (1809: t. 55), in accordance with Article 53.1 of the ICN (Turland et al. 2018). Therefore, a new name, *A. phillipsiae* R. Kr. Singh, Arigela & Ch. S. Reddy, is proposed as a replacement name for *A. diffusa* S. M. Phillips.

NOMENCLATURE

Agrostis phillipsiae R. Kr. Singh, Arigela & Ch. S. Reddy, *nom. nov.*

≡ *Agrostis diffusa* S. M. Phillips, Kew Bull. 41: 137. 1986, *nom. illeg., non* Host (1809: t. 55) et Muhl. (1817: 64).

Holotype: Ethiopia, East slopes of Mount Delo, 27 January 1953, J.B. Gillett 14923 (K000367468!, Figure 1)

Distribution: Endemic to Ethiopia.

Etymology: Named after S.M. Phillips, British Botanist for her remarkable contributions to the grass taxonomy.

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