



A new species of *Sporobolus* (Poaceae, Chloridoideae) from Trindade Island, Brazil, with comments on the distribution of the genus in the South Atlantic

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Abstract

Sporobolus nesiotioides (Poaceae) is described as a new species from Trindade Island, Brazil, using morphological and anatomical characters. The species has affinity with the extinct *S. durus* from Ascension Island. The presence of the genus on other tropical oceanic islands of the South Atlantic is discussed.

Resumo

Sporobolus nesiotioides (Poaceae) é descrita como nova espécie da Ilha da Trindade, Brasil, usando caracteres morfológicos e anatômicos. Esta espécie tem afinidade com o extinto *S. durus*, da Ilha de Ascensão. A presença do gênero em outras ilhas oceânicas do Atlântico Sul é discutida.

Introduction

The genus *Sporobolus* Brown (1810: 169) includes about 160 species of C4 grasses, mostly in the tropics but also in the subtropics and warm-temperate zones (Clayton & Renvoize 1986, Mabberley 2008). The genus is morphologically characterized by an inflorescence in a contracted or an open panicle (never racemose), late deciduous spikelets with persistent glumes, generally with only one antherium with a 1-nerved palea similar to the lemma, and a caryopsis with a deliquescent pericarp (Boechat & Longhi-Wagner 1995).

Forty five species of *Sporobolus* were cited from East Tropical Africa (Clayton 1974) and 29 from West Tropical Africa (Clayton 1972). Clayton (1972) did not mention any species from oceanic islands, and cited *S. virginicus* (Linnaeus 1753: 63) Kunth (1829: 67) for sandy sea shores. Clayton (1974) mentioned *S. africanus* (Poiret 1810: 254) Robyns & Tournay (1955: 242) from the African continent and also recorded it as a weed on the Ascension Island. For Brazil, Boechat & Longhi-Wagner (1995) recognized 25 species and Longhi-Wagner (2013) 28 species, of which 13 are endemic. Several species of *Sporobolus* are also insular endemics, such as *S. durus* Brongn. in Duperrey (1829: 18) and *S. caespitosus* Kunth (1831: 423) from the Ascension Island (Lambdon *et al.* 2012) and the species described here, from Trindade Island, Brazil.

Sporobolus nesiotioides Longhi-Wagner, R.J.V. Alves & Nílber *sp. nov.*, Fig. 1–4.

Type:—BRAZIL, Trindade Island, South Atlantic, 380 m elevation, 20° 30' 05.92" S, 29° 20' 10.17" W, 28 February 2012, R.J.V. Alves 8831 & N. G. Silva (holotype R!, isotype ICN!).

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