

Carex pallidula, nom. nov.

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Carex pallidula Harmaja, nom. nov., must replace *C. pallens* (Fristedt) Harmaja 1986, which is an illegitimate name as a younger homonym of *C. pallens* Z.P. Wang 1962.

Key words: *Carex pallens*, Cyperaceae, new name, nomenclature

***Carex pallidula* Harmaja, nom. nov.**

TYPONYM: *Carex pallens* (Fristedt) Harmaja, *Ann. Bot. Fennici* 23: 148. 1986, nom. illeg. (non *Carex pallens* Z.P. Wang, J. Nanjing Univ. (Biol.) [Nanjing daxue xuebao (shengwu xue)] 1962(2): 49. 1962).

The European taxon *Carex digitata* L. var. *pallens* Fristedt was raised to the specific rank by me (Harmaja 1986). The epithet “*pallens*” did not appear to be occupied in the genus *Carex* at the specific level according to the literature then available. However, much later it turned out that the name “*Carex pallens*” was preoccupied, having first been published in a journal that had a very short life span and that seems to be in the possession of only very few libraries outside China. Because *C. pallens* Z.P. Wang, based on a different type, was validly published earlier, I made an illegitimate later homonym according to Art. 53.1 of ICBN (Greuter *et al.* 2000). The European sedge species thus needed a new name at the species level.

Carex pallens Z.P. Wang was based on a specimen (*C.-P. Wang* 56) from Nanjing (Jiangsu province, SE China). It is not related to the European *C. pallidula* as can be judged from its protologue that most kindly was made available to

me by Professor Shuren Zhang (Beijing Institute of Botany, China).

In a most interesting recent contribution, the *Carex digitata* aggregate (to which *C. pallidula* belongs) was subjected to an allozyme analysis (Tyler 2002). The results obtained by that Swedish author represent molecular level confirmation of three main points earlier presented by me (Harmaja 1986, 1990) on non-molecular basis: (i) *C. pallidula* (as *C. pallens* (Fristedt) Harmaja) is an independent species distinct from *C. digitata* (as well as from *C. ornithopoda* Willd. and *C. pediformis* C.A. Mey. ssp. *rhizodes* (Blytt) H. Lindb.), (ii) limited hybridization between *C. digitata* and *C. pallidula* seems probable, and (iii) *C. pallidula* is not the result of introgressive influence from *C. pediformis* ssp. *rhizodes* towards *C. digitata*.

References

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