

**VALIDATION OF PRATOCHLOA (POACEAE: ARUNDINOIDEAE)  
AND A NEW COMBINATION, PRATOCHLOA WALTERI,  
BASED ON ERAGROSTIS WALTERI**

**LAURENT HARDION**

Laboratoire Image Ville Environnement (LIVE)  
University of Strasbourg, CNRS  
Institut de Botanique  
28 rue Goethe  
67000 Strasbourg, France  
hardion@unistra.fr

**PAUL M. PETERSON and ROBERT J. SORENG**

Department of Botany  
National Museum of Natural History  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, DC 20013-7012  
peterson@si.edu; sorengr@si.edu

**ABSTRACT**

The new genus **Pratochloa** Hardion is validated and the new combination **Pratochloa walteri** (Pilg.) Hardion is made for *Eragrostis walteri*.

The Arundinoideae Kunth ex Beilschm. includes 40 species in 14 genera (Soreng et al. 2017). Hardion et al. (2017) presented a new phylogeny and classification of the Arundinoideae and found *Eragrostis walteri* to be sister to two species of *Elytrophorus* P. Beauv. However, for lack of a genus diagnosis or description, the proposed new genus *Pratochloa* and species transfer were not effectively published (Art. 38.5 ICN; McNeill et al. 2012). Descriptio generico-specifica did not apply, as there was only a reference to an earlier species description. We validate the new genus below and make a new combination.

**PRATOCHLOA** Hardion, **gen. nov.** **TYPE:** *Pratochloa walteri* (Pilg.) Hardion ( $\equiv$  *Eragrostis walteri* Pilg.).

*Pratochloa* differs from *Elytrophorus* in having hairy ligules, open, ovate panicles with the primary branches bearing spikelets almost near the base, 7–15-flowered spikelets with 3-veined glumes, lemmas with glabrous margins, and caryopses with an adherent pericarp.

This new genus is named in tribute to Henri Prat (1902–1981), professor at the Universities of Marseille (France) and Montreal (Quebec, Canada).

*Pratochloa* occurs in the Nama-Karoo and Desert Biomes of Namibia (Gibbs Russell et al. 1990; Clayton et al. 2006; Ingram et al. 2011). The single species is found in damp, sandy and brackish soils around seepage areas, stagnant pools, or along creeks often associated with calcium carbonate (Gibbs Russell et al. 1990). The type, three additional specimens to exhibit individual variation within *P. walteri*, and a close up of the florets are shown in Figure 1.

**PRATOCHLOA WALTERI** (Pilg.) Hardion, **comb. nov.** *Eragrostis walteri* Pilg., Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Berlin-Dahlem 15: 452. 1940. **TYPE: NAMIBIA.** Kleiner Naukluftrivier, 29 Oct 1937, H. & E. Walter 458 (holotype: B [image B100272776!]; isotype: B [image B100272777!]).

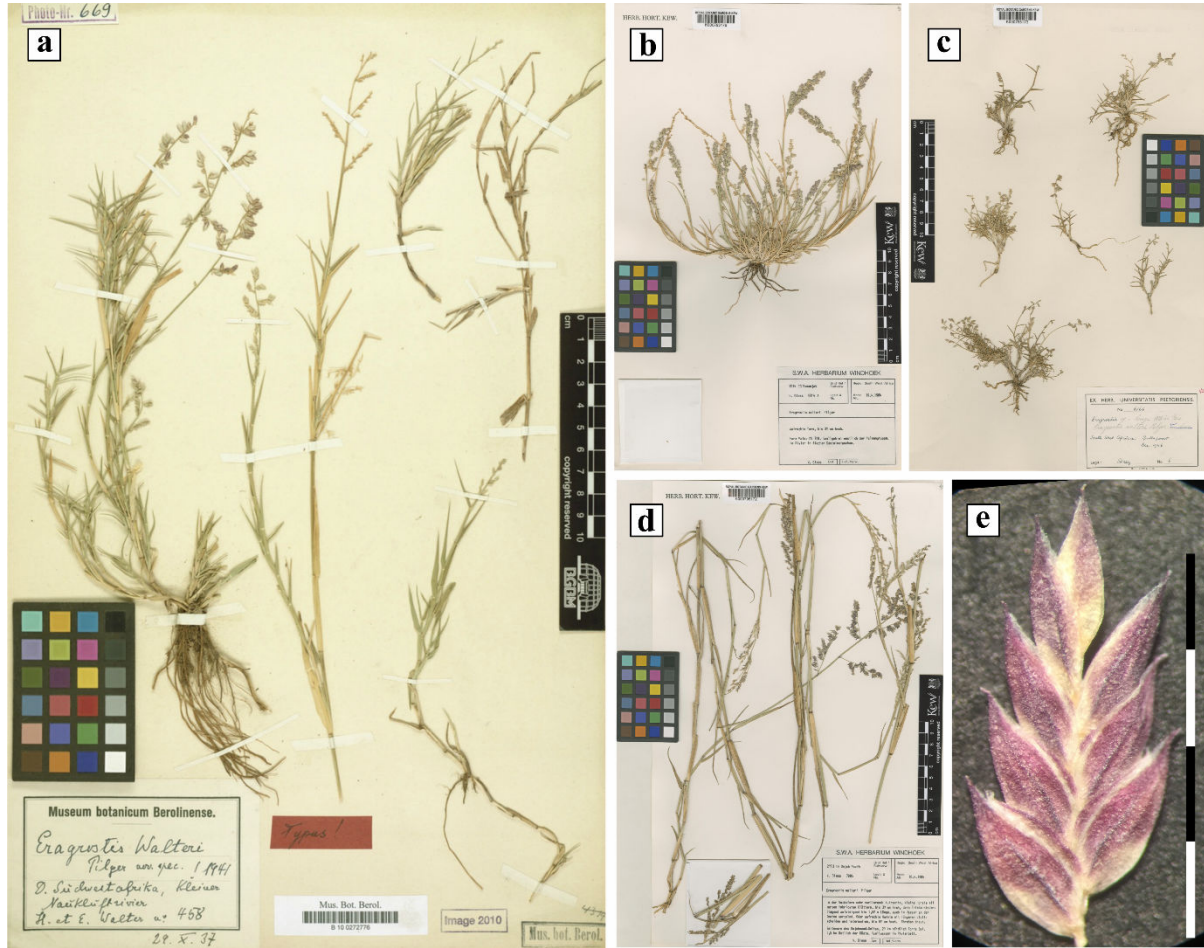


Figure 1. *Pratochloa walteri*. A. Image of the holotype (B100272776). B. *Geiss 8104a* (K000795176). C. *Strey 6* (K00079573). D. *Geiss 7995* (K000795172). E. Florets taken from *Geiss 7995* (K000795172), scale = 4 mm.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Neil Snow for reviewing an earlier draft of the manuscript and Guy Nesom for editing the final version.

### LITERATURE CITED

- Clayton, W.D., M.S. Vorontsova, K.T. Harman, and H. Williamson. 2006 onwards. GrassBase - The online World grass flora. The Board of Trustees, Royal Botanic Gardens <<https://www.key.org/data/grasses-db.html>> Accessed 1 May 2018
- Gibbs Russell, L.W., M. Koekermoer, L. Smook, N.P. Barker, H.M. Anderson, and M.J. Dallwitz. 1990. Grasses of Southern Africa. Mem. Bot. Surv. S. Africa 58: 1–437.
- Hardion, L., R. Verlaque, G. Hann-Archipoff, D. Cahen, M. Hoff, and B. Vila. 2017. Cleaning up the grasses dustbin: systematics of the Arundinoideae subfamily (Poaceae). Pl. Syst. Evol. 303: 1331–1339.
- Ingram A, P-A. Christin, and C. Osborne. 2011. Molecular phylogenies disprove a hypothesized C<sub>4</sub> reversion in *Eragrostis walteri* (Poaceae). Ann. Bot. 107: 321–325.
- McNeill, J., F.R. Barrie, W.R. Buck, V. Demoulin, W.R. Greuter, D.L. Hawksworth, P.S. Herendeen, S. Knapp, K. Marhold, J. Prado, W.F. Prud'homme van Reine, G.F. Smith, J.H. Wiersema, and N.J. Turland. 2012. International Code of Nomenclature for Algae, Fungi, and Plants

(Melbourne Code), adopted by the Eighteenth International Botanical Congress, Melbourne, Australia, July 2011. <<http://www.iapt-taxon.org/nomen/main.php>> Accessed 1 May 2018

Soreng, R.J., P.M. Peterson, K. Romaschenko, G. Davidse, J.K. Teisher, L.G. Clark, P. Barberá, L.J. Gillespie, and F.O. Zuloaga. 2017. A worldwide phylogenetic classification of the Poaceae (Gramineae) II: An update and a comparison of two 2015 classifications. *J. Syst. Evol.* 55: 259–290.