

Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina

Author(s): Robert J. Soreng and Roderick H. Simmons

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Noteworthy Collections

Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina

Robert J. Soreng¹ and Roderick H. Simmons^{2*}

¹Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, 10th & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20560

²City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities, 2900-A Business Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Poa iconia Azn. var. *iconia* (POACEAE) – **Maryland, Howard County:** In wooded back yard, growing in moss, 13 May 1989, *E. Cohen 22* (US); **Prince George’s County:** Near Margaret Brent Dormitory, College Park, Apr 1939, *R. Rappleye 1552* (US); **Virginia, City of Alexandria:** Tarleton Park, ca. 0.25 km WNW of the intersection of S. Gordon Street and Wheeler Avenue; frequent in rich, silty loam of meadowy glade of ancient Piedmont/Central Appalachian Floodplain Swamp (Pin Oak-Swamp White Oak Type): *Quercus palustris-Quercus bicolor/Carex tribuloides-Carex radiata-(Carex squarrosa)* Forest (USNVC: CEG006497) remnant along the old channel of Holmes Run, 16 Apr 2018, *R.H. Simmons 4359* (AVCH) and 1 May 2018, *R.H. Simmons 4363* (AVCH, NY, US, and Virginia Dept. Conservation and Recreation, Division of Natural Heritage herbarium); **North Carolina:** May 1928, *B.W. Wells s.n.* (US).

Significance. These are the first reportings of *Poa iconia* for the eastern United States, and first published record for North America.

Soreng has been studying the *Poa bulbosa* complex in Eurasia and found that *P. bulbosa* and *P. iconia* are genetically isolated (Cabi et al., 2016; the latter as *Poa pelasgis* H. Scholz). The name *P. iconia* predates any other applicable synonyms for that taxon, and the type from Konya, Turkey (E00367667), exhibits viviparous/proliferous spikelets/bulbils, but many plants of this species in its eastern Mediterranean range (centered on the eastern Greek islands and widespread in Turkey) flower normally, as in *P. bulbosa* var. *bulbosa*, passing under the name *P. pelasgis*.

Poa iconia differs from *P. bulbosa* by having hairy sheaths, and sometimes blade backs, and sometimes hairs below the culm nodes, in addition to short basal leaf ligules, mostly less than 1 mm long. The panicles tend to be more diffuse in mature material of *P. iconia*, and to have more slender and elongated bladelets on the bulbils in the proliferous panicles.

To track the viviparous and normal flowering forms of these species, Soreng considers the rank of variety suitable (individuals with both forms should be referred to the viviparous varieties).



Poa iconia Azn. var. *iconia*. Alice R. Tangerini, illustrator.

*email address: Rod.Simmons@alexandriava.gov
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Although the normal flowered form of *P. iconia* has not been found in the Americas, to create the autonym, var. *iconia*, we propose the normal flowered form be called var. *pelasgis*.

Poa iconia* var. *pelasgis (H. Scholz) Soreng, **com. et stat. nov.** Basionym: *Poa pelasgis* H. Scholz, *Willdenowia* 15(1): 94. 1985.

Heterotypic syn. *Poa sinaica* subsp. *graeca* H. Scholz, *Botanika Chronika* 3(1–2): 20. 1983.

Although *P. bulbosa* var. *vivipara* is also in North America, and widely established, *P. iconia* var. *iconia* was only recently recognized as distinct. It has been spreading around North America since the early 1900s, and is also wide-

spread. It is recorded in the Smithsonian Department of Botany specimen collections database (<https://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/botany/>) from Arizona, Arkansas, California, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming in the United States, and from Quebec in Canada.

LITERATURE CITED

- Cabi, E., R. J. Soreng, L. J. Gillespie, and N. Amiri. 2016. *Poa densa* (Poaceae), an overlooked Turkish steppe grass, and the evolution of bulbs in *Poa*. *Willdenowia* 46:201–211.