

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Jarava plumosa (Gramineae), a new combination for the species formerly known as *Stipa papposa*

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Gardner et al. (1996) reported the naturalisation near Adelaide (SA) of an introduced grass species under the name *Stipa papposa* Nees. While the species appears to be spreading it is so far still confined to the one general area. They noted that the name was illegitimate, being based on the type of *Calamagrostis plumosa* Sprengel. They missed a more recent combination for this species, *Achnatherum papposum* (Nees) Barkworth (Barkworth 1993), also illegitimate.

Recent studies in the Stipeae have clearly indicated a need to divide the old large genus *Stipa* into several monophyletic genera (Barkworth and Everett 1986; Barkworth 1993; Jacobs and Everett 1996; Torres 1997). This is an active process and there is still much to do. It seemed at one stage that species related to *S. papposa* belonged in *Achnatherum* (Barkworth 1993). Work in progress is indicating that this may not be the best option, with a range of data indicating that *Jarava* Ruiz & Pavon should be recognised as a genus that can be morphologically distinguished by: the awn not plumose but the upper part of the lemma bearing long hairs that form an apical pappus; the lemma usually less thickened than in many other genera of Stipeae; and the palea much shorter than the lemma. *Jarava*, with its apical pappus, shows yet another adaptation for wind dispersal in this tribe. Caro and Sanchez (1973) provide a good treatment of this taxon as *Stipa* section *Jarava* (Ruiz & Pavon) Spegazzini.

The name of this species needs to be legitimised for the treatment of this group in a forthcoming volume of the *Flora of Australia*. Unfortunately, a decision had to be made before a more complete study, including anatomy, morphology and DNA studies of related species, can be completed. The options we considered were:

- (i) stay with an illegitimate name in the wrong genus;
- (ii) take up a later synonym of that name;
- (iii) propose the conservation of the incorrect combination in *Achnatherum* knowing that this will most likely have to be changed again in the near future;
- (iv) make a nomenclaturally correct combination in *Achnatherum* knowing that this will most likely have to be changed again in the near future; or
- (v) make a new combination in the genus (*Jarava*) in which it is most likely to fit best.

We decided on option (v), thereby reducing the probability of subsequent change.

Jarava Ruiz & Pavon 1794: 2 (1794).

Type species: *Jarava ichu* Ruiz & Pavon.

Jarava plumosa (Sprengel) S.W.L. Jacobs & J. Everett, **comb. nov.**

Basionym: *Calamagrostis plumosa* Sprengel, Syst. 1: 253 (1825)

Type: Montevideo, [Uruguay], *Sello s.n.* (n.v.)

[*Stipa papposa* Nees 1829: 377 (1829) nom illeg.; *Achnatherum papposum* (Nees) Barkworth 1993: 11 (1993)].

Note: *Stipa delilei* Steudel is sometimes quoted as a synonym of *S. papposa* Nees but the former was based on the later homonym *S. papposa* Delile.

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