

SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Amphipogon* (Gramineae) does have microhairs**

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Amphipogon is a genus of eight species endemic to Australia. The genus has usually been treated as a member of the subfamily Arundinoideae (Watson & Dallwitz 1992, 1994) despite the similarities of the microhairs of *Amphipogon* to those of *Enneapogon* in the Chloridoideae (Amarasinghe & Watson 1988). Barker (1997) followed Renvoize (1981) and 'a recent survey of the genus by Linder (pers. comm.)' in stating that the leaf blades of *Amphipogon* species lack microhairs, despite also citing Watson and Dallwitz (1992) who described them in detail. At best this statement is applicable only to abaxial leaf blade epidermes. Microhairs on the adaxial surface of *Amphipogon* leaves are recorded and illustrated by Johnston and Watson (1976), Jacobs (1986) and Amarasinghe and Watson (1988). More recent information is summarised in Watson and Dallwitz (1992, 1994) based on light microscopy of seven species of *Amphipogon* plus transmission electron microscopy of longitudinally sectioned adaxial leaf blade microhairs of *A. caricinnus* by Amarasinghe and Watson (1988). From Johnston and Watson (1976), Jacobs (1986), Amarasinghe and Watson (1988) and Watson and Dallwitz (1992, 1994) it is clear that microhairs are regularly found on the adaxial leaf surface as well as on the lemmas. The generic description and some illustrations are available on the WWW (currently at <http://www.biodiversity.uno.edu/delta/>).

The *rbcL* data support the placement of *Amphipogon* in the Arundinoideae by Watson and Dallwitz (1992, 1994), but the presence of bicellular microhairs similar to those in *Enneapogon* (Chloridoideae) justify their caution.

References

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