

Myriocladus Swallen, gen. nov.

Spiculae alternae, in racemis unilateralibus dispositae, 4-florae, flosculo infimo abortivo, supremo reducto; rhachilla inter flosculum abortivum et flosculum primum hermaphroditum articulata; glumae et lemma sterile spicula breviora, 1-nervis, breve aristata; flosculorum hermaphroditum lemma coriaceum, obscure 5-7-nerve, exaristatum; palea sulcata, marginibus latis hyalinis; gramen perenne (?), laminis elongatis, latis, subcordatis, basi vix articulatis, racemis numerosis paniculatis.

Spikelets alternate on one side of an angled rachis, 4-flowered, the lowest lemma empty, the uppermost floret rudimentary, the rachilla readily disarticulating between the sterile and fertile florets, the two fertile florets and the rudiment falling entire; glumes and sterile lemma shorter than the spikelet, 1-nerved, awned; fertile lemmas coriaceous, weakly 5-7-nerved, awnless; palea deeply sulcate, the margins broad, thin, overlapping; perennial grass with long broad flat blades, gradually narrowed to a broad subcordate base, plainly differentiated from the sheath, probably tardily disarticulating, and elongate panicles of numerous racemes.

Myriocladus resembles, and is probably closely related, to *Neurolepis* which differs in having two sterile lemmas, only one perfect floret, no rudiment, and the blades are long attenuate to the base and continuous with the sheath without any definite line of separation.

Myriocladus virgatus Swallen, sp. nov.

Culmi 1.5 m. alti, robusti, erecti, glabri, panicula folio multo superante; vaginae latae, internodiis brevibus multo longiores, compressae, glabrae; ligula ca. 1 mm. longa, minute ciliata; laminae 35-55 cm. longae, 1.5-4.0 cm. latae, lineari-lanceolatae, subcordatae, firmae, glabrae, marginibus valde scabris; panicula 85 cm. longa, racemis \pm 200, brevibus, adscendentibus vel patentibus, axe crasso pubescenti; spiculae 3 mm. longae; gluma prima 1.5 mm. longa, arista 0.5 mm. longa; gluma secunda obovata, 1.5 mm. longa, arista glumam aequante; lemma sterile obtusum, 2 mm. longum, arista quam gluma duplo brevior; floris inferioris hermaphroditi lemma 3 mm. longum, 5-7-nerve, glabrum; palea lemma aequans, sulcata, carinata, marginibus latis hyalinis.

Culms 1.5 m. high, robust, stiffly erect, somewhat compressed, glabrous, the elongate inflorescence much exceeding the leaves, these mostly crowded toward the base; sheaths broad, all much longer than the short internodes, somewhat compressed but not keeled, more or less inflated, glabrous, the juncture with the blade marked by a well defined line or ridge but the blades not readily deciduous; ligule about 0.1 mm. longi minutely ciliate; blade 35-55 cm. long, 1.5-4.0 cm. wide, linear-lanceolate, somewhat cordate, the base about as wide as the mouth of the sheath, firm, flat, glabrous, the margins strongly scabrous; inflorescence about 85 cm. long with approximately 200 short ascending to spreading racemes, these paniculate on the

stout pubescent axis; racemes mostly 2-2.5 cm. long, subsessile, with a prominent pubescent pulvinus in the axils, the lower ones rather distant, often with poorly developed spikelets, the upper ones crowded; spikelets 3 mm. long; first glume 1.5 mm. long, narrow, the awn about 0.5 mm. long; second glume obovate, 1.5 mm. long with a stout awn as long as the body; sterile lemma obtuse, 2 mm. long, the awn $1/2$ as long as the body; lower floret 3 mm. long, the lemma faintly 5-7-nerved, smooth, awnless; palea as long as or a little longer than the lemma, rather deeply sulcate, sharply keeled, the margins broad, thin, overlapping, enclosing the flower; rudiment 1.5 mm. long (Fig. 4).

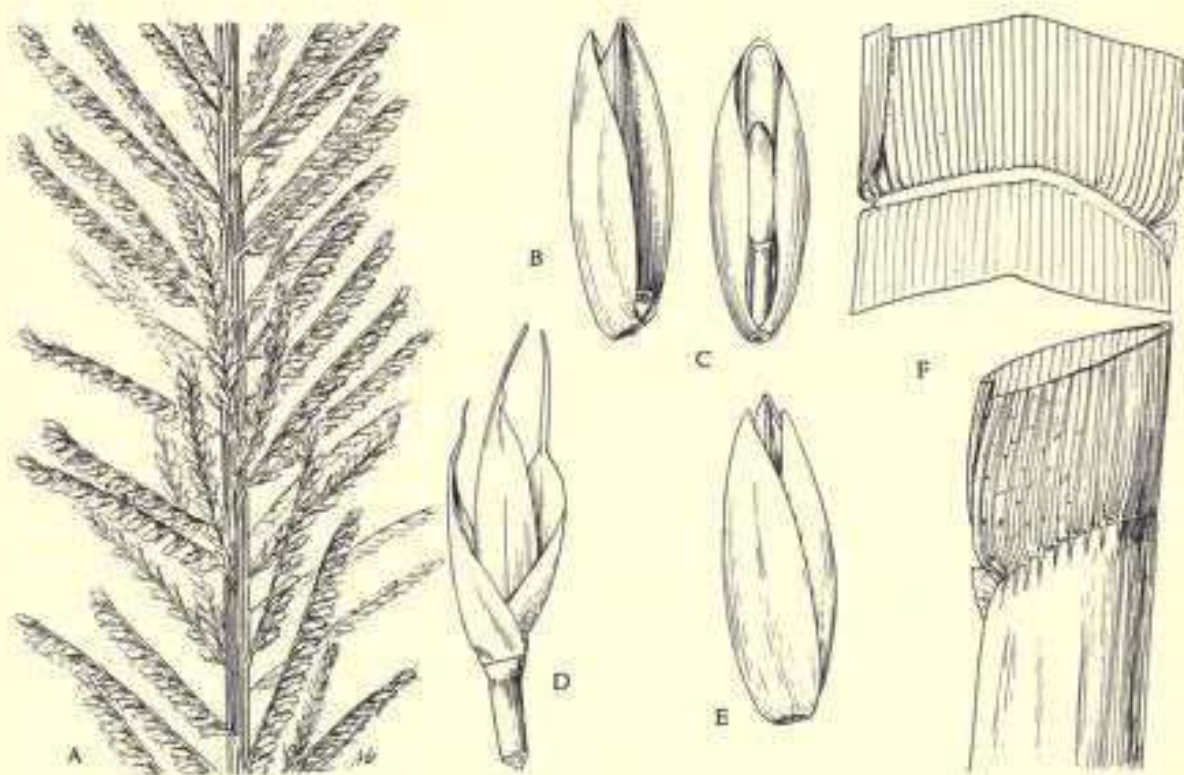


FIGURE 4

Myriocladus virgatus Swallen, sp. nov. (Steyermark 58293)

A, Inflorescence X 1; B, Lower fertile floret, X 10; C, Upper fertile floret with rudiment, X 10; D, Glumes and sterile lemma, X 10; E, Spikelet with glumes and sterile lemma removed, X 10; F, Ligule and upper part of sheath, X 1

Type in herb. Chi. Nat. Hist. Mus., no. 1,189,825, collected on summit of Cerro Duida, Savanna Hills, Territorio Federal Amazonas, alt. 1025-1200 m., September 2, 1944, *Julian A. Steyermark 58293*.

Myriocladus Cardonae Swallen, sp. nov.

Perennis; culmi usque ad 3 m. alti, ramosi, ca. 1 cm. crassi; vaginae condensatae, distichae, crassae, glabrae, summo ligula

exteriore brevi membranacea; ligula ex pilis longis implicatis, in ore vaginarum inferiorum conspicuis, constituta; laminae articulatae, inferiores suque ad 34 cm. longae, 5.5 cm. latae, acuminatae, tessellatae, glabrae, marginibus scaberrimis, eae ramorum minores, 6-14 cm. longae, 2-2.5 cm. latae; inflorescentiae 10-30 cm. longae, 1-1.5 cm. latae, densae, attenuatae, racemis brevibus, condensatis, appressis, axe dense pubescente; glumae floribus fere longiores, secunda quam prima longior, acuminatae, in parte superiore marginibus involutis; lemma sterile 3 mm. longum, obtusum, apiculatum; lemmata fertilia 3.5 mm. longa, obtusa, glabra; palea quam lemmate 0.5-1.0 mm. longior, inter carinas sulcata; flos supremus reductus obsoletus, rachilla manifesta.

Perennial; culms woody, branching and rebranching, apparently from the lower nodes, the main culm as much as 3 m. tall, about 1 cm. thick; sheaths very crowded, distichous, the back thickened, becoming spongy and fibrous with age, glabrous, extending beyond the articulation with the blade as a short membrane; ligule a dense line of long tangled hairs, the lateral hairs conspicuous at mouth of the sheath; lower blades as much as 34 cm. long, 5.5 cm. wide, acuminate, rather broadly rounded at the base, tessellate, glabrous on both surfaces, the margins strongly scabrous, disarticulating from the sheath with age, the blades of the branches much smaller, 6-14 cm. long, 2-2.5 cm. wide; inflorescences terminal on all the branches, 10-30 cm. long, 1-1.5 cm. wide, dense, spikelike, attenuate toward the tip, the short crowded racemes closely appressed, the axis densely pubescent; spikelets 5-7 mm. long; glumes about equaling or exceeding the florets, the second longer than the first, broad at the base, acuminate, the margins inrolled from the middle upward, the tip thus appearing as a stout awn; sterile lemma 3 mm. long, obtuse, apiculate; fertile lemma 3.5 mm. long, obtuse, glabrous, the mid-nerve thickened toward the tip but not excurrent; palea 0.5-1.0 mm. longer than the lemma, deeply sulcate; upper rudimentary floret reduced to the rachilla joint.

Type in U.S. Nat. Herb., nos. 1,914,812-4, collected on Cumbre del Cerro Acopán, Caroní, Guayana, alt. 2150 m., October, 1947, *Felix Cardona 2307*.