

Rhipidocladum McClure

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This treatment is composed of the following taxa: *Rhipidocladum*, *Rhipidocladum parviflorum*, *Rhipidocladum racemiflorum*.

HOW TO CITE

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DESCRIPTION

Woody bamboo. Rhizomes pachymorph, sympodial. Culms 2--12 (--40) m tall, 1--35 mm diameter, thornless; erect at the base, scandent, arching or clambering above. Internodes fistulose, sometimes with a pithy filling, walls 1--2 mm thick, all sub-equally elongated in length, smooth, glabrous. Culm leaves triangular or narrowly triangular, deciduous, stramineous, the margins of the sheath and blade contiguous (no pseudopetiole constriction); sheaths coriaceous, not auriculate; blades erect, persistent with the sheath, papery or coriaceous, the junction with the sheath asymmetrically curved, extending sometimes nearly halfway down along one side of the sheath; inner ligule truncate, hard. Nodes with a single bud positioned above the nodal line, not elevated on a promontory; nodal line horizontal. Branching intravaginal; branches usually several to numerous arising in an apiculate array from the margins of a flat, adnate, triangular surface (presumed to be a modified primary branch). Foliage leaves with the sheaths rounded on the back, lacking auricles, glabrous or pubescent, fimbriate at the summit; outer ligule reduced to a rim; inner ligule minute; blades usually lanceolate, sometimes linear, glabrous or pubescent, adaxially green, abaxially glaucous with a longitudinal green stripe along one margin, not tessellate, the base rounded-attenuate, the apex attenuate to acuminate, the margins glabrous or serrulate with 2--3 raised strigose nerves adaxial to green stripe; pseudopetiole glabrous or pubescent, often twisted, darker in color. Synflorescences racemiform, terminating leafy branches or borne directly from apiculate nodal array; synflorescence axis internodes flat to sulcate or semiterete above spikelets, twisted or geniculate, with a ciliate membrane at the base of each peduncle; spikelets inserted and oriented in diverse patterns; primary subtending bracts usually lacking, except for the lowermost one; prophylls rarely present. Spikelet length 0.8--6.0 cm, comprising 2--4 (--5) glumes, 1--10 perfect florets, and one or two terminal rudimentary florets; disarticulation above the glumes and sterile lemmas, and between florets; florets falling with the rachilla segment attached; glumes subulate, acute, mucronate or aristate; fertile lemma embracing the palea basally at maturity, acute, obtuse, mucronate or aristate, abaxially glabrous or pubescent, adaxially pubescent toward the upper 1/3; palea broadly sulcate, 2-keeled, the keels ciliate to ciliolate or smooth; lodicules 3; stamens 3, anthers yellow; ovary fusiform, 1-styled with 2 feathery stigmas; fruit (as far as is known) a caryopsis.

COMMENTS

In Brazil, *Rhipidocladum* is most similar to *Actinocladum* and *Merostachys*. It may be distinguished from these by: 1) erect culm leaf blades without a pseudopetiole (vs. reflexed with a pseudopetiole), 2) unpaired, 2-ranked spikelets arranged on short pedicels in raceme-like synflorescences (vs. spikelets paired in secund, spike-like synflorescences or spikelets long-pedicellate), and 3) fruit a true caryopsis (vs. a nuroid caryopsis).

Life Form

Bamboo

Substrate

Terrestrial

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Not endemic to Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Amazon Rainforest, Central Brazilian Savanna, Atlantic Rainforest

Vegetation Types

Anthropic area, Riverine Forest and/or Gallery Forest, Terra Firme Forest, Seasonally Deciduous Forest, Seasonally Semideciduous Forest, Ombrophyllous Forest (Tropical Rain Forest)

Geographic DistributionConfirmed occurrences

North (Amazonas, Pará)

Central-west (Distrito Federal, Goiás)

Southeast (Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo)

South (Paraná)

IDENTIFICATION KEY

1. Foliage leaf blades 5.0--7.5 cm long, 3--5 mm wide; lemmas glabrous .. *R. parviflorum*

1. Foliage leaf blades 2.5--5.0 cm long, 2--4 mm wide; lemmas puberulent .. *R. racemiflorum*

Rhipidocladum parviflorum (Trin.) McClure

Has as synonym

basionym *Arundinaria parviflora* Trin.

heterotypic *Arthrostylidium trinii* Rupr.

DESCRIPTION

Leaf: sheath margin ciliate/entire; **blade length** more than 4 cm; **blade width** less than 5 mm. **Inflorescence: length cm** less than 3.6 cm; **spikelet number** less than 10.

Life Form

Bamboo

Substrate

Terrestrial

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Not endemic to Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Amazon Rainforest, Central Brazilian Savanna, Atlantic Rainforest

Vegetation Types

Riverine Forest and/or Gallery Forest, Terra Firme Forest, Seasonally Deciduous Forest, Seasonally Semideciduous Forest

Geographic Distribution

Confirmed occurrences

North (Amazonas, Pará)

Central-west (Distrito Federal, Goiás)

Southeast (Minas Gerais, São Paulo)

South (Paraná)

HERBARIUM MATERIAL

T.S. Filgueiras, 1297, SP

Riedel, 189, LE, São Paulo, **Typus**

Carlos S Rosario, 25, MG, Pará

T.S. Filgueiras, 1297, K,  (K000947836), Goiás

FIELD IMAGES / ILLUSTRATIONS



Figure 1: *Rhipidocladum parviflorum* (Trin.) McClure



Figure 2: *Rhipidocladum parviflorum* (Trin.) McClure



Figure 3: *Rhipidocladum parviflorum* (Trin.) McClure



Figure 4: *Rhipidocladum parviflorum* (Trin.) McClure



Figure 5: *Rhipidocladum parviflorum* (Trin.) McClure

Rhipidocladum racemiflorum (Steud.) McClure

Has as synonym

homotype *Merostachys racemiflora* (Steud.) E. Fourn.

DESCRIPTION

Leaf: sheath margin ciliate; **blade length** less than 6 cm; **blade width** less than 5 mm. **Inflorescence: length cm** more than 2.9 cm; **spikelet number** more than 9.

Life Form

Bamboo

Substrate

Terrestrial

DISTRIBUTION

Native, Not endemic to Brazil

Phytogeographic Domains

Atlantic Rainforest

Vegetation Types

Anthropic area, Ombrophyllous Forest (Tropical Rain Forest)

Geographic Distribution

Confirmed occurrences

Southeast (Rio de Janeiro)

HERBARIUM MATERIAL

Ghiesbrecht, 234, P, **Typus**

Sarahyba, L.S., 1062, SP