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# Typification of *Carex davalliana* Sm. and *Carex trinervis* Degl. (Cyperaceae)

M. J. Y. FOLEY

## ABSTRACT

FOLEY, M. J. Y. (2001). Typification of *Carex davalliana* Sm. and *Carex trinervis* Degl. (Cyperaceae). *Candollea* 56: 131-135. In English, English and French abstracts.

An examination of specimens of *Carex davalliana* Sm. contained in J. E. Smith's herbarium (LINN) has revealed that some of the material quoted by Smith in the protologue of his original description of the plant is, in fact, *C. dioica*. Consequently, a Swiss collection of *C. davalliana* supplied to Smith by Davall has been selected as lectotype. In the absence of evidence that any specimens of *C. trinervis* Degl. collected by Degland still survive, an unattributed collection from Biarritz, south-west France, which is present in Loiseleur's herbarium at Avignon (AV), has been selected as the lectotype.

## RÉSUMÉ

FOLEY, M. J. Y. (2001). Typification de *Carex davalliana* Sm. et de *Carex trinervis* Degl. (Cyperaceae). *Candollea* 56: 131-135. En anglais, résumés anglais et français.

L'étude des spécimens de *Carex davalliana* Sm. de l'herbier de J. E. Smith (LINN) a montré qu'une partie du matériel cité par Smith dans le protologue de son nouveau taxon était en fait du *C. dioica*. En conséquence, une récolte faite en Suisse et envoyée à Smith par Davall est choisie comme lectotype. Pour *C. trinervis* Degl. il n'y a plus aucune trace de matériel collecté par Degland lui-même. En conséquence, une récolte faite à Biarritz, sud-ouest de la France, et qui se trouve dans l'herbier de Loiseleur conservé en Avignon (AV) est choisie comme lectotype.

**KEY WORDS:** *Carex davalliana* – *Carex trinervis* – Lectotypes – Herbaria, Davall, Smith, Loiseleur, Degland.

## *Carex davalliana* Sm.

*Carex davalliana* Sm., a member of Sect. *Physoglochin* Dumort. (Sect. *Dioicae* Tuck.), is a plant of damp calcareous habitats, and is widely distributed from Russia and the Baltic region southwards into central and southern Europe and eastward into Asia. It was unrecorded in Britain until 1807 when it was discovered by a Mr Groult near Bath at what is still the only confirmed locality, but it later became extinct in the 1830s, apparently due to drainage. However, it was described new to science by J. E. Smith a few years earlier (SMITH, 1800) who, close to the beginning of his paper which includes the original description of the plant, states: "Discovered in marshy ground in Mearns-shire [an area of eastern Scotland], North Britain, by Professor James Beattie jun. of Aberdeen". Despite this, the specimen(s) in Smith's herbarium supplied by Beattie from "Mearns-shire" are all of *C. dioica* L. Later in his same paper Smith states that specimens of the same *Carex* (i.e. *C. davalliana*) were also sent to him from Switzerland by Edmund Davall who found it to be very common in almost all of the damp areas around Orbe (Vaud).

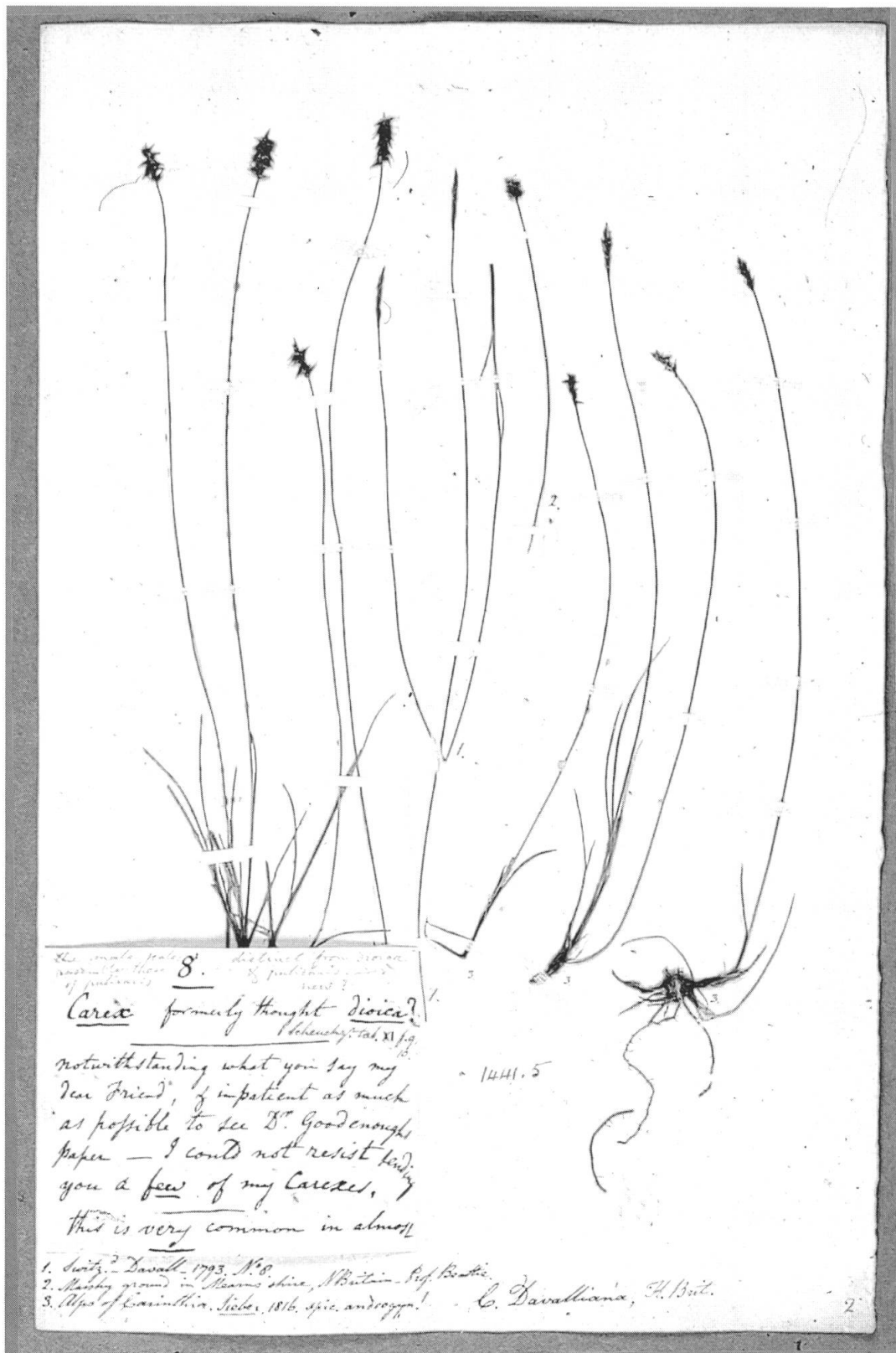


Fig. 1. - Lectotype of *Carex davalliana* Sm.



Fig. 2. – Lectotype of *Carex trinervis* Degl.

Davall (1763-1798) was British but worked for much of his life as a forestry inspector in Switzerland. He formed a large herbarium of Swiss and British plants and was in correspondence with Smith on many occasions.

Smith's original description of *C. davalliana* is clearly of the plant now known by that name, since the characters he describes are consistent with those by which it is best separated from its close European relative, *C. dioica*. A sheet of specimens number 1441.5 in Smith's herbarium (LINN) (Fig. 1) contains three separate collections: Swiss material (seven specimens to the left side of the sheet) collected by Davall in, or prior to, 1793 (numbered 1 by Smith – the numbers partly obscured by a letter – and also labelled with Davall's collection number 8); a single spike of Beattie's "Mearnsire" plant (no. 2); and a collection from Carinthia by Sieber dated 1816 (no. 3). (Dates on Smith's herbarium sheets usually refer to the date on which he received them from the collector, rather than the actual date collected – although these, of course, may often be almost the same). The Davall and Sieber collections on sheet 1441.5 are *C. davalliana* but the single spike from Beattie is clearly *C. dioica*. Appended to the sheet is an extract of a letter from Davall to Smith headed "8. [the collection number] Carex formerly thought dioica?", and below a comment "I could not resist sending you a few of my Carexes, this is very common in almost every damp spot – the following [ultimately identified as *C. dioica*] is by no means so – I have never found it hitherto than at my [Swiss] peat bog".

Collection 9. to which Davall refers is also in LINN (hb. Smith, no. 1441.2) and contains five plants of *C. dioica* labelled by Smith: "1. Switzd. Davall 1793. No. 9". The same sheet also contains various other collections: from Herb. D. Rose; a plant marked "Common in Mearnsire. Prof. Beattie. 1799. No. 1"; and a collection from Norfolk (possibly made by Smith himself). All these are *C. dioica* and the sheet is annotated "omnino" to this effect by Linnaeus fil. That Davall was at this time having difficulty in reconciling his collections (nos. 8 and 9) is apparent from a further note from him to Smith which is now attached to this sheet (1441.2). The note headed "Carex dioica vera?" reveals his doubts as to the true identity of all these plants and, since the female plant occurred more frequently than the male he had, at first, thought it to be *C. capitata* L. He concluded the note by stating ".....all these circumstances make me suspect this to be true dioica? [which it is]. If so, what is my 8.???".

It must be assumed then that Smith, despite initially quoting, and thereby erroneously singling out Beattie's Mearnsire collection, a specimen of which he had in his possession in 1799 (1441.2, no. 3) and which he considered to be representative of *C. davalliana*, must have based his quite accurate original description on Davall's Swiss specimens. The collection referred to no. 1 (Davall's collection no. 8) included on sheet 1441.5 in the Smith herbarium is almost certainly that and, as it fully conforms to current usage of the name, is a suitable lectotype for *C. davalliana* Sm. There is also an additional sheet of *C. davalliana* (1441.6) in the Smith herbarium. This is labelled "Switzerland. Herb. Davall. 1802" but would, however, have only been received by Smith when the bulk of Davall's herbarium was sent to England after the latter's death in 1798.

**Lectotype of *Carex davalliana* Sm.** (here designated): [a collection from near Orbe, Switzerland and labelled:] "1. Switz.d – Davall – 1793. No. 8.", hb. Smith 1441.5, no. 1 (LINN).

### *Carex trinervis* Degl.

*Carex trinervis* Degl., a member of Sect. *Phacocystis* Dumort. (Sect. *Acutae* (Fries) Christ), is a close relative of *C. nigra* (L.) Reichard with which it sometimes grows and can hybridise and is also often confused. It is a relatively local plant of coastal, mainly dune slack, habitats on the North Sea, Channel and Atlantic coasts of continental Europe, from Denmark southwards to Portugal. The only recorded British locality was at Ormesby, Norfolk where it was discovered by H. G. Glasspoole in 1869 but later became extinct.

It was originally described from southern France in 1807 in an account of the genus written by Degland for Loiseleur-DeLongchamps' *Flora Gallica* ("Hoc genus [Carex] [...] ex toto elaboravit carissimus amicus noster J. V. Degland") (LOISELEUR, 1807); it was recorded "in sabuletis uliginosis circà Baionam [Bayonne]" flowering in May and June. Little appears to be known of Degland (1773-1841) and no specimens of *C. trinervis* which bear his name (as collector) have so far been located. However, it might confidently be expected that his material would ultimately be retained in Loiseleur's herbarium which is now at Avignon (AV). Searches there have located a sheet containing a specimen collected near to Bayonne and labelled "Carex trinervis Degland. Lieux marécageux à Biaritz. 25 mai 1803" (Fig. 2). The handwriting on the label is clearly that of Loiseleur (cf. BURDET, 1976) but the collector is not named. The specimen is dated 1803, four years prior to the publication of Loiseleur's *Flora*, and would have been in Degland's possession when he described the new name. Although rather immature, it equates satisfactorily with the present concept of *C. trinervis* and is a suitable lectotype.

**Lectotype of *Carex trinervis* Degl.** (here designated): [the collection] "Lieux marécageux à Biaritz [south-west France]. 25 mai 1803", hb. Loiseleur (AV).

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