

Carex viridula Michaux and *Carex glareosa* Wahlenberg: Two Sedges New to the Faroe Islands

Tvey nýggj sløg av stjør í Føroyum

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Úrtak

Tær báðar stjørnar *Carex viridula* Michaux og *Carex glareosa* sum vaksa kring allan norðurknøttin, eru skrásettar nýggjar í Føroyum. *Carex viridula* er ein av vanligastu stjørnum í Føroyum. Higartil hevur í Føroyum ikki verið gjørdur munur á *Carex demissa* Hornemann og *Carex viridula*. *Carex glareosa* er bert funnin á einum staði vestanvert á Suðuroynni við Hvalba. Lendið har stjørini vaksa, umframt eyðkennini hjá stjørnum, verða lýst.

Abstract

The two circumpolar distributed sedges *Carex viridula* Michaux and *Carex glareosa* Wahlenberg are recorded as new to the Faroe Islands. *Carex viridula* is one of the most common sedges of the Faroes. So far this sedge is not distinguished from *Carex demissa* Hornemann on the Faroes. *Carex glareosa* could be only recorded at a location at the westcoast of Suðuroy near Hvalba. The habitats and the characteristics of the two sedges are described.

Introduction

Within the scope of a field trip on the Faroe Islands in July 2001 and 2003, the author visited the islands Suðuroy, Sandoy, Vágar, Streymoy, Eysturoy, Borðoy, Kunoy and Viðoy. On these excursions, the author was particularly interested in the taxa of *Cyperaceae*. This short note will deal with the occurrence of *Carex viridula* Michaux and the new find of *Carex glareosa* Wahlenberg in the Faroes.

Up to now *Carex viridula* Michaux is not distinguished from *Carex demissa* Hornemann in the Faroes (cf. Rasmussen, 1952; Fosaa, 2000; Jóhansen, 2000).

On all visited islands *Carex viridula* could be found at suitable locations.

The distribution of *Carex viridula* is circumpolar, widespread in temperate areas up to the arctic zone (cf. Hultén og Fries, 1986). Next to the Faroe Islands *Carex viridula* occurs in Iceland (Löve, 1983), in the British Isles (Stace, 1991) and in Scandinavia (Hyllander, 1966).

The taxonomic classification as species or subspecies and the nomenclature of the taxa of the *Carex flava* group, in particular of *Carex demissa* and *Carex viridula* are still contentious and will not be discussed in this short note (vgl. Crins, 2002; Egorova, 1999; Hedrén, 1998; Kiffe, 1998; Schmid, 1980; 1983).

This publication is based on the current Scandinavian point of view (cf. Karlsson, 1998).

As a second new species for the Faroes, *Carex glareosa* could be discovered at a location on Suðuroy. The distribution of this species is circumpolar at the coasts of the boreal and arctic zone (Löve, 1983).

Locations and Habitats

Carex viridula is a common plant of moist to wet habitats, it is frequently found on the moorlands covering the lower slopes of most Faeroese mountains.

Carex viridula was found at several places on all islands visited by the author in 2003: Suðuroy, Sandoy, Vágur, Streymoy, Eysturoy, Borðoy, Kunoy and Viðoy. Furthermore vouchers of *Carex viridula* could be found in Copenhagen (C) from Fugloy and Kalsoy (No. 7268, loc. 134, Klubbin, Fugloy, 21.07.1961, leg. Kjeld Hansen; No. 7529, loc. 135, Eystfelli, Fugloy, 21.07.1961, leg. Kjeld Hansen; No. 7980, loc. 114, Húsar, Kalsoy, 02.08.1961, leg. Kjeld Hansen (all vouchers as *Carex demissa* Hornem., det. Kjeld Hansen, vgl. Hansen, 1966).

In July 2003 *Carex glareosa* was found on Suðuroy near Norðbergseiði, northwest of

Hvalba along the edge of the coastal cliffs which are not grazed by sheep. In this area more than 1000 tufts are growing along a 500 m distance. The vegetation in this stony area is dominated by *Festuca rubra*, *Plantago maritima* and *Armeria maritima*.

Characteristics of the Species

Carex viridula belongs to the subgenus *Carex*. The species is a member of the *Carex flava* group. The flowering stems are 2.5-15 cm tall, erect or ascending. The leaves are \pm as long as stems, (1-)1.5-3.0(-4) mm wide, yellowish-green or green, flat. The female spikes are 5-8x3-6 mm, crowded, the lowest sometimes remote. The utricles are (2-)2.5-3.0(-3.5) mm, greenish or yellow-green, obovoid to ellipsoid, abruptly or gradually contracted into a 0.5-1.0 mm long beak.

Carex viridula looks like a small *Carex demissa*. Small, stunted plants of *Carex demissa* can be confused with *C. viridula*. The best differences are the smaller, crowded utricles. With regard to large specimen of *Carex viridula* and small specimen of *Carex demissa*, it is very difficult to classify them clearly.

Carex glareosa belongs to the subgenus *Vignea*. The plants are laxly or densely caespitose, without or with short, creeping rhizomes. The flowering stems are 10-25 cm tall, erect or ascending first, later curved, and flattened to the ground at maturity. The leaves are shorter or \pm as long as the flowering stems, \pm grey-green, often channeled or rarely flat, 0.5-2 mm wide. The inflo-

rescences are 7-25×5-12 mm, with 2-3(4) spikes.

The utricles are pale-greenish to reddish-brown, conical but seldomly beaked, lightly or obscurely several-veined, 1.5-3.5 mm.

Voucher species were placed in B, C and in the Faroese Museum of Natural History, Tórshavn.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Anna Maria Fosaa, Faroese Museum of Natural History, Tórshavn, Henrik Ærenlund Pedersen and Olof Ridning, Botanical Museum Copenhagen for the opportunity to study herbarium material.

I also would like to thank Jens Christian Schou for his help to find useful literature and Marion Hemmelgarn for the revision of the English text.

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