

# Notas do Herbário Florestal do INIAV (LISFA): Fasc. XXXVIII

[1. *Novarum Flora Lusitana Commentarii*  
*In memoriam* A.R. Pinto da Silva  
(1912 - 1992)

*Carex depauperata* Curtis ex Stokes (*Cyperaceae*), a new species for Portugal

## Introduction

On 23 May 2012 the first author found a to him unknown *Carex* in Portugal, municipality of Guarda, village of Aldeia Viçosa. The locality is approximately 100 m south of the little chapel called Nossa Senhora do Carmo at an altitude of c. 500 m and c. 50 m away from an old pigeon-house. The co-ordinates of the site: UTM 29PTE 422 921. Det.: J. Jansen (RU, NL), W. Holverda (NHN, NL), Jac. Koopman (Choszczno, PL), J. Capelo (LISFA, PT). Several specimens were growing mostly in the shade of *Laurus nobilis* and quite near an already dried up brook.

Material is inserted in the National Herbarium Nederland (NHN), in the herbarium of the Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária (LISFA) and in the private herbarium of the second author.

*Carex depauperata* was found in an abandoned estate, at the fringe of a forest, growing with several specimens in or at the bank of a nearly dried out riverbed which was slightly altered to function as an irrigation channel. The tree layer indicates the presence of the Galician-Portuguese oakwood association *Rusco aculeati-Quercetum roboris* Br.-Bl., P. Silva & Rozeira 1955 em. Amigo, Izco, J. Guitián & Romero 1998, according to the presence of adult specimens of *Quercus robur* subsp. *broteroana* and a number of quite vital *Laurus nobilis* specimens. At

close distance but under drier and more sunny conditions other oak tree species occur, mainly Cork oak (*Quercus suber*) and a few small Pyrenean oak trees (*Quercus pyrenaica*).

### Classification

*Carex depauperata* Curtis ex Stokes belongs to the subgenus *Carex*, having a differentiated male spike at the top and a few female spikes lower in the inflorescence. The flowers bear three stigmas. It is placed in its own section *Depauperatae* Meinsh., indicating that it is not very closely related to other *Carex* species.

### Distribution

*Carex depauperata* occurs in most of the European countries and also in Central Asia. According to KOOPMAN (2011) it has been found within Europe in: Ireland, the United Kingdom, France (inclusive Corsica), Luxembourg, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Italy (inclusive Sicily), Slovenia, Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia. It became probably extinct in Belgium at the end of the 1970's.

At relatively short distance across the border with Spain, *Carex depauperata* has been collected in the provinces Salamanca, Avila and Cáceres, more than once growing under oak trees including *Quercus pyrenaica*, *Q. faginea* and *Q. rotundifolia* (FERNÁNDEZ DÍEZ, 1979; LADERO, 1974; LUCEÑO, 1987).

LUCEÑO (1994) does not mention *Carex depauperata* for Portugal, nor does LUCEÑO (2007). Obviously the species had never been found there, although it is rather easy to recognize, so not easily to be overlooked.

### Morphology

The specimens found in Portugal are rather tall and caespitose with long, more or less overhanging flowering stems which bear a few lax female spikes and at the top a male spike. The female spikes, with peduncles but not pendant, bear only a few flowers 2-8, hence the name *C. depauperata*. The utricles have a

long, scabrid beak and the utricle body is prominently veined. The leaves, 2-4 mm wide, are shorter than the stems, which can reach 1 m height. The basal leaf sheaths are reddish-brown. It can hardly be mixed up with any other *Carex*.

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