
Stylosanthes rostrata (Leguminosae), a New Combination from Argentina and Uruguay

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ABSTRACT. As part of the revision of the genus *Stylosanthes* Swartz (Leguminosae) from South America, material from Corrientes, Argentina, described by Burkart as *S. gracilis* Kunth var. *rostrata* Burkart, is recognized at species rank as *S. rostrata* (Burkart) Vanni.

RESUMEN. Durante la revisión del género *Stylosanthes* Swartz (Leguminosae) para Sudamérica, el material de Corrientes, Argentina, descrito por Burkart como *S. gracilis* Kunth var. *rostrata* Burkart, es considerado una especie diferente *S. rostrata* (Burkart) Vanni.

Key words: Argentina, Leguminosae, *Stylosanthes*, Uruguay.

Stylosanthes gracilis Kunth was broadly interpreted by Burkart (1939) and included four varieties under the name, one of which was *S. gracilis* var. *rostrata* Burkart. The name *S. gracilis* var. *rostrata* was later considered by Mohlenbrock (1957) as a synonym of *S. montevidensis* Vogel, but he did not study type material of Burkart's variety or of *S. montevidensis*. The species was recently considered under the synonymy of *S. guianensis* (Aublet) Swartz var. *gracilis* (Kunth) Vogel.

Stylosanthes rostrata occurs in northeastern Argentina and Uruguay and is sympatric with *S. hippocampoides* Mohlenbrock and *S. montevidensis*. These three species maintain their particular characteristics within the same distributional area. *Stylosanthes hippocampoides* and *S. montevidensis* have a broader distributional range, occurring from southern Brazil and south into Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina.

Stylosanthes rostrata (Burkart) Vanni, comb. et stat. nov. Basionym: *Stylosanthes gracilis* Kunth var. *rostrata* Burkart, Darwiniana 3(2): 251. 1939. TYPE: Argentina. Corrientes: Granja de Bella Vista, 18 July 1905, C. Spegazzini & C. D. Girola 54 [Min. Agr. 14648] (holotype, SI). Figure 1.

Plants perennial, branches prostrate to suberect, with setae and hair incurved, white, short. Leaves trifoliolate; stipules 11 mm, connate to the base or foliate, free in the upper half and then subulate, with setae and scattered curved trichomes; petioles 5–6 mm; leaflets 12–15 × 2–3 mm, narrowly elliptic, mucronate, apically setose; the lateral ones asymmetric, with the longest terminal; hypophyllus with scattered weak trichomes, evident, with white veins, with dense setae along the nerves, margins jagged with mucronate teeth; epiphyllus with setae. Inflorescences terminal or subterminal, in dense spikes, with up to 8 flowers; bracts similar to stipules, with central lamina ca. 8 mm, bracteoles 2, hyaline at flower bases. Flowers yellow. Fruit with a single article, ca. 6 × 3 mm, the lower article rarely developed, with evident longitudinal veins, glabrous, a few thick hairs on the open beak, ca. 1.5 mm, with a slight apical bend.

Distribution and habitat. *Stylosanthes rostrata* is found in northeastern Argentina (Corrientes) and in Uruguay in humid sandy soils.

Comments. *Stylosanthes rostrata* is similar to *S. hippocampoides*, differing mainly in the article beak of the fruit, which is more incurved in *S. hippocampoides*. *Stylosanthes rostrata* differs from *S. montevidensis* in the latter species having plants of juncooid aspect, with fewer leaves, and fruit with a strongly uncinuate beak with yellowish hairs in the concavity.

Additional specimens examined. URUGUAY. **Colonia:** Riachuelo, Feb. 1930, Herter 85562 (M, NY); La Colonia (río de la Plata), Feb. 1918, L. Hauman s.n. (BR).

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Literature Cited

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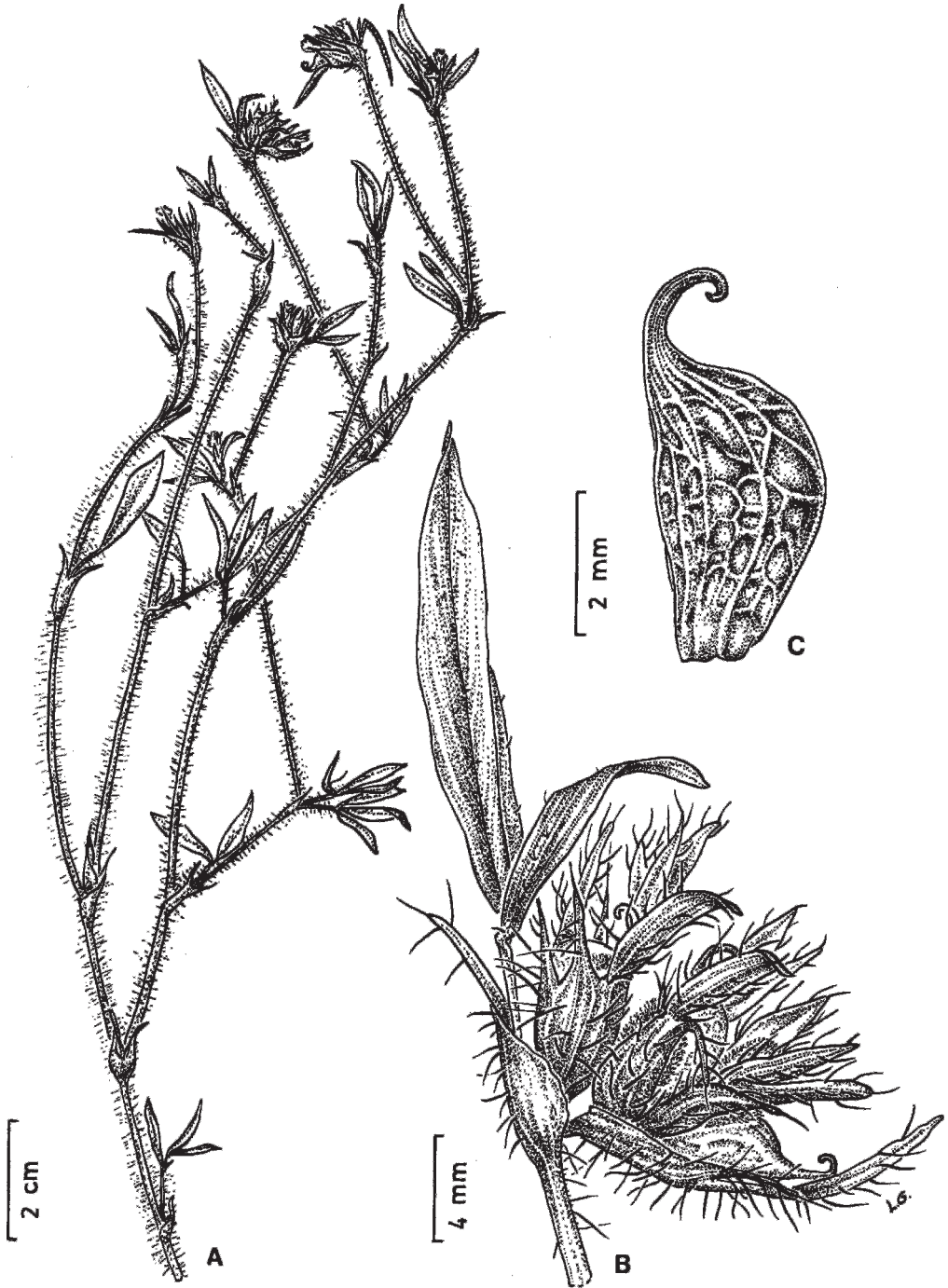


Figure 1. *Stylosanthes rostrata* (Burkart) Vanni. —A. Branch. —B. Inflorescence. —C. Fruit. Drawn from the holotype, Spegazzini & Girola 54 (SI).