

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
FOURTH SYMPOSIUM
ON THE
NATURAL HISTORY OF THE BAHAMAS**

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GRAMINEAE ON THE ISLAND OF SAN SALVADOR, BAHAMAS

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ABSTRACT

A study is underway to catalog the grasses of San Salvador. Collections of flowering species were made in March 1990, and additional collections are planned for other seasons of the year over a two to three year period. It may be necessary to collect each month in order to find all species in flower.

A complete checklist of the grasses of San Salvador will be developed and will be documented with properly identified and labeled herbarium specimens. One set of specimens will stay at the Bahamian Field Station, one will go to Tracy Herbarium, one to the Missouri Botanical Gardens, one to Fairchild Tropical Gardens, and one to the United States Herbarium. Approximately twenty species were collected in March 1990, when the season appeared to still be "winter". A listing of these species occurs in Table 1 in the RESULTS section.

INTRODUCTION

Goal

The goal of this work is to develop a complete checklist of the grasses occurring on the island of San Salvador, Bahamas. Current checklists of vascular plants of San Salvador seem to be incomplete for the Gramineae based on observations of grasses growing around the island. Some locally abundant grasses appear never to flower, so that positive identification is extremely difficult, if not impossible. In addition, several species of grasses are abundant around the Bahamian Field Station but are not listed in current checklists.

Objectives

The overall objective is to collect grasses of San Salvador during anthesis (enough plant material to make five good specimens) at least seasonally, over a two to three year period, to develop a complete listing of grasses growing on the island. More frequent collections (as often

as monthly) may be necessary to collect all species in flower.

Another objective is to document the checklist with correctly identified and labeled herbarium specimens. One set of specimens will be deposited at the Bahamian Field Station, one at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, one at Tracy Herbarium, one at Fairchild Tropical Gardens, and one at the United States Herbarium.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in this project involves making field collections over as much of the island as possible and as frequently as possible. These are numbered in the field and annotations are made into a field notebook. The specimens are then arranged in newspaper folds, onto which the collection data and number have been written, placed in a plant press, and dried in a plant dryer. The specimens are identified after return to the United States. The technical floras used to make the identifications include the following: Howard, Flora of the Lesser Antilles; Hitchcock, Manual of the Grasses of the United States; Correll and Correll, Flora of the Bahama Archipelago.

RESULTS

Twenty-one species of flowering grasses were collected in March 1990. Two of these have eluded positive identification to date. The remaining nineteen are listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1 - List of grass species collected in San Salvador in March 1991

Aristida swartziana Steud.
Bothriochloa pertusa (L.) A. Camus
Cenchrus echinatus L.
Chloris inflata Link
Dactyloctenium aegyptium (L.) Beauv.

Eleusine indica (L.) Gaertn.
Eragrostis ciliaris (L.) R. Brown
Eragrostis glomerata (Walt.) L. H. Dewey
Eragrostis purpurascens (Spreng.) Schult.
Eustachys petraea (SW.) Desv.
Lasiacis divaricata(L.)Hitchc.var.divaricata
Paspalum blodgettii Chapm.
Paspalum molle Poir.
Paspalum vaginatum Sw.
Phragmites australis (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.
Setaria geniculata (Lam.) Beauv.
Sorghum vulgare Pers.
Sporobolus domingensis (Trin.) Kunth
Sporobolus virginicus (L.) Kunth

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