

**Grimmia decipiens (Schultz) Lindb. - Handb. Skand. Fl. 8: 386. 1861.**

**Type:** Germany, Duc. Megapol. Stargard, lectotype, designated by Geissler & Maier (1995), G!; isolectotype H-SOL!

**Synonyms:** *Dryptodon decipiens* (Schultz) Loeske, *Trichostomum decipiens* Schultz.

**Distribution:** Afr.1. As.1,2,5. Eur.

**Description**

*Grimmia decipiens* forms robust, hoary, readily disintegrating brownish-green tufts, leaves in comal tufts, loosely appressed to slightly twisted when dry, patent when moist, broadly lanceolate, tapering to acute apex, keeled above, costa broad and strong, projecting on dorsal side, hair-points long, coarsely denticulate, flattened at base and decurrent, margins unequally recurved on both sides. The distal areolation is partly bistratose, mid-leaf cells are short- to long-rectangular with conspicuous sinuose and incrassate walls, basal marginal cells quadrate, slightly inflated, hyaline, basal juxtacostal cells linear with incrassate straight to slightly sinuose walls. Sexuality autoicous, capsules on arcuate setae usually present, they are obloid, strongly ribbed when dry, with rostrate operculum.

**Discussion**

In Northwest and Central Europe, *G. decipiens* is an uncommon species on dry, exposed, neutral to acidic boulders on mountainous slopes, where it is frequently associated with *G. laevigata* and *G. ovalis*. The species is conspicuous by its robust habit and rough, long, straight, when dry reflexed hair-points. The capsules, on arcuate setae, have a rather long rostrate lid and show, when empty and dry, eight longitudinal ribs. *G. decipiens* is not very variable, but rather difficult to recognize in the field, where it may be confused with *G. elatior*, *G. austrofunalis* and especially with *Racomitrium heterostichum* (Hedw.) Brid. *G. elatior* has only one recurved leaf margin, slightly denticulate hair-points and it is dioicous. From the also dioicous *G. austrofunalis*, it differs by the more broadly recurved leaf margins and the longer and coarsely denticulate hair-point. However, in the field, young plants of *G. decipiens* can hardly be distinguished from other *Grimmiaceae*, and in areas where *G. decipiens* and *Racomitrium heterostichum* are very common, growing frequently intermingled, e.g. in the Serra da Estrela in Portugal, only sporulating plants can be distinguished in the field. *G. decipiens* is a thermophilous montane species and does not occur above 2000 m. The distribution is principally

South European and it is common in Mediterranean areas, where it has a weedy character, occurring even in polluted areas.

### **Specimens examined**

**Andorra.** Riu de l'Ovier, Cami de la Plana, alt. 1350 m, leg. A. Sotiaux; **Belgium.** Prov. de Luxemburg, Straimont, Pont sur la Vierre, leg. Ph. de Zuttere, nr. 19001; Prov. de Luxemburg, Lacuisine, Au sud du bois de Meussin, Rochers au bord de la Sémois, leg. Ph. de Zuttere, nr. 18999; Ht. Acoz, Fonds d'Acoz, leg. Ph. de Zuttere, nr. 18883; Namur, Gochenée, Bois Cheneu, Vallée de l'Ermeton, leg. Ph. de Zuttere, nr. 20516; Angre, Caillou qui Bique, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2070; **Canary Islands.** Tenerife, Teno, Los Andorranes, alt. 1000 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2076. **Corsica.** Col de Verde, alt. 1450 m, leg. H.C. Greven; Stue Menhir, alt. 300 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2917; **France.** The Vosges, Le Valtin, alt. 900 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2762; The Vosges, Lièpvre, alt. 531 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2763; Ardennes, Hierges, Vireux, leg. Ph. de Zuttere, nr. 18890; Puy-de-Dome, Barge, leg. Ph. de Zuttere, nr. 21526, 19576; Pyrenees, St. Engrace, alt. 675 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2064, 2065, 2066, 2654; **Germany.** Nettetel, zwischen Trimbs and Welling, leg. R. Düll, nr. 5609/4; Hessen, Laubach, Rumsberg, alt. 250 m, leg. G. Roth; Pfalz, Kirchheimbolanden, Drosselfels, leg. H. Lauer, nr. P. 3662; Pfalz, Speyerbachtal, Elmstein, leg. H. Lauer, nr. P. 3645; **Greece.** Sithonia, Vourvourou, Mt. Karvonous, alt. 350 m, leg. R. Düll; Sithonia, Nikiti, Ag. Nikolaos, alt. 150 m, leg. R. Düll; **Luxemburg.** Oesling, Bigonville, Point de vue de Hoffelt, leg. Ph. de Zuttere, nr. 19235; Oesling, Surré, Carrefour de la Surbach et du ruisseau de Surré., leg. Ph. de Zuttere, nr. 19703; **Madeira.** Between Pico do Gato and Pico Ruivo, alt 1800 m, leg. J. Nieuwkoop; **Portugal.** Serra da Estrela, Penhas Douradas, alt. 1450 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2068, 2072; **Sardinia.** Monti del Gennargentu, Monte Arbu, alt. 1290 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2074; Villanova, Monteleone, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2076; Monte Tonneri, alt. 900 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2075, 2077; Cucurru Orru, alt. 467 m, leg. H.C. Greven, nr. 2073.

### **References**

Greven, H.C. 2003. *Grimmias of the World*. Backhuys Publishers, Leiden, The Netherlands.