

**Grimmia stenobasis Dixon - Res. Norw. Sc. Exp.
Tristan da Cunha 48: 23. 1960.**

Type: Tristan da Cunha, the Peak, 1600 m, leg. E. Christophersen No. 1751a, lectotype, designated by Muñoz & Pando (2000), FH!

Distribution: Afr.2

Description

Grimmia stenobasis grows with minute plants in yellowish-brown, dense, low patches, the leaves loosely appressed to slightly flexuose when dry, erecto-patent when moist, carinate, linear-lanceolate, gradually tapering to acute apex, ± 1.0 mm long and 0.1-0.2 mm broad, costa weak, not projecting on dorsal side, hair-points absent to very short, smooth to slightly denticulate, margins plane, bistratose in apex. The distal areolation is unistratose, the mid-leaf cells are rectangular with sinuose and incrassate walls, the basal marginal cells are short-rectangular with thickened transverse walls, the basal juxtacostal cells are linear with thin walls. The sexuality is dioicous, gametangia and sporophytes unknown, however, the leaf tips are brittle and dispersion will probably take place by broken off leaf tips.

Discussion

In 1938, the Norwegian scientists Christophersen and Mejlund went on an expedition to the isolated island of Tristan da Cunha. The collected bryophytes were sent to H.N. Dixon who described a.o. *Grimmia stenobasis*. In his protologue, Dixon remarked that *G. stenobasis* resembles small forms of *G. elongata*, having the same yellow-coloured areolation with sinuosely-incrassate mid-leaf cells and very short hair-points. However, *G. stenobasis* is much smaller, the leaf margins are flat, the transverse walls of the basal marginal cells are thickened, and the upper lamina is unistratose. Muñoz and Pando (2000) treated *G. stenobasis* as a synonym of *G. kidderi* Jam. It is likely that the island endemic *G. stenobasis* has derived from *G. kidderi* which is commonly occurring and widely spread on the Antarctic islands. However, the minute brown plants with very short hair-points and unistratose lamina differ distinctly from the blackish *G. kidderi*, which is much larger and characterized by oblong-lanceolate leaves, with conspicuous, long, white hair-points, bistratose distal lamina, and costa projecting on dorsal side.

Specimens examined

Tristan da Cunha, slopes of peak, above settlement, alt. 1600 m, on loose cinders, leg. Christophersen & Mejlund, 23-03-1938, BM!;

References

- Dixon, H.N. 1960. Mosses of Tristan da Cunha. Results of the Norwegian Scientific Expedition to Tristan da Cunha 1937-1938. No. 48
- Muñoz, J. & F. Pando. 2000. A world synopsis of the genus *Grimmia* (Musci, Grimmiaceae). Monogr. in System. Bot. from the Missouri Bot. Gard. Vol 83.