



An overlooked new species of *Desmodium* (Fabaceae, Papilionoideae) from Argentina

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Abstract

More than seventy years ago Arturo Burkart transferred *Meibomia riedelii* to *Desmodium riedelii* and confirmed the occurrence of this species in Argentina. His position was based only on the original description and a photo of one of the syntypes. Fieldwork in northeastern Argentina and central Brazil and examination of all syntypes of *Meibomia riedelii* revealed that these are not conspecific with Argentinean specimens and a new species, *Desmodium burkartii*, is described here. This new species is restricted to grasslands in the Province of Corrientes in northeastern Argentina and is promptly differentiated from *D. riedelii* by shape of leaflets, shape and number of articles of loment, besides quantitative traits.

Key words: Desmodieae, IUCN, lectotype, *Meibomia*

Introduction

Desmodium Desv. comprises about 300 species and is most diverse in Asia, Mexico and South America (Ohashi 2005). The genus *Desmodium* was published by Desvaux (1813), although some species had previously been described in other genera such *Hedysarum* Linnaeus (1753) and *Meibomia* Heister ex Fabricius (1759; Kuntze 1891; Hoehne 1921).

Schindler (1924a, 1924b, 1925a, 1925b, 1926, 1928) recognized *Meibomia* as distinct from *Desmodium* and published several new species and new combinations in *Meibomia* between 1924 and 1928. However, *Meibomia* was rejected against *Desmodium*, which is accepted as a conserved name. Based on this ruling, many of Schindler's *Meibomia* names required new combinations in *Desmodium*.

When Burkart (1939) published his treatment for the hedysarioid legumes of Argentina, he provided new combinations in *Desmodium* from some of the Schindler species, among them, *Meibomia riedelii* Schindl., which he confirmed grown in Argentina. The combination *Desmodium riedelii* (Schindl.) Burkart was based only on the examination of the original description and a photo of one of the syntypes (*Riedel* 526) deposited in F (negative number FOBN018397).

Vanni (2001) reviewed the genus *Desmodium* in Argentina and cited 21 species for this country, but he did not see most of the types. After a fieldwork in northeastern Argentina and central Brazil and examination of specimens (including types) of the herbaria BR, CTES, G, K, LE, LECB, OXF, P, and SI (acronyms according Holmgren *et al.* 1990), including all type collections of *Meibomia riedelii*, we concluded that specimens considered to be *Desmodium riedelii* by Burkart (1939) and Vanni (2001) belongs to an overlooked new