



Pseudosymblepharis perlongifolia (Bryophyta, Pottiaceae), a neglected species from Malaysia new for America

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Abstract

The Asian moss *Pseudosymblepharis perlongifolia*, previously known only from Malaysia, is reported for the first time for America on the basis of several collections from Maricao (Puerto Rico). The principal distinctive characters that separate it from the nearest species of *Pseudosymblepharis* and related genera are discussed. The species is described and illustrated.

Resumen

El musgo asiático *Pseudosymblepharis perlongifolia* es citado por primera vez en América, en base a varias colecciones de Maricao (Puerto Rico). Hasta ahora, la especie era conocida exclusivamente de Malasia. En este trabajo se discuten los principales caracteres que permiten diferenciarla de otras especies de *Pseudosymblepharis*, así como de especies cercanas de otros géneros. La especie es descrita e ilustrada.

Key words: distribution, mosses, Puerto Rico, taxonomy

Introduction

In the context of a worldwide taxonomic revision of *Pseudosymblepharis* Brotherus (1924: 261), we studied the type material of *Trichostomum perlongifolium* Fröhlich (1962: 92). This species was described based on a single collection made by W. Meijer on Mount Kinabalu, Borneo, in the East Malaysian state of Sabah. *Trichostomum perlongifolium* was transferred to *Pseudosymblepharis* by Zander (1993). However, up to then, the species had been forgotten and was not even included in the Malesian moss flora (Eddy 1990). Sollman (2000), in his taxonomic revision of genus *Pseudosymblepharis* in Asia, reduced *Pseudosymblepharis perlongifolia* (J. Froehl.) Zander (1993: 80) to synonymy with *P. bombayensis* (Müller 1851: 628) Sollman & Eén (1996: 2). In addition, he included under *P. bombayensis* the five species of *Pseudosymblepharis* known from Asia: *P. angustata* (Mitten 1859: 28) Hilpert (1933: 670), *P. duriuscula* (Mitten 1859: 27) Chen (1941: 153), *P. indica* Dixon & P. de la Varde (1927: 166), *P. khasiana* (Mitten 1859: 29) Zander (1993: 80) and *P. perlongifolia*. Moreover, Sollman (2001) transferred *P. bombayensis* to *Chionoloma bombayense* (Müll.Hal.) Sollman (2001: 139), based on work carried out by Menzel (1992), so that, up to now, *P. perlongifolia* has been considered a synonym.

During the course of a revision of American *Pseudosymblepharis* (Alonso *et al.* 2014), we had the opportunity to examine several collections of Puerto Rican mosses deposited at NY. Among these collections, we found some specimens belonging to *Pseudosymblepharis* which did not match any previously known species of this genus in America. A detailed study of these specimens allowed us to identify them as *P. perlongifolia*.

This paper presents a complete description and LM photographs of this neglected species. Moreover, its distribution, habitat, and comparisons with closely related species are provided.

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