A New Variety of *Schoenoplectus proximus* (Steud.) J. Raynal (Cyperaceae) from Botswana

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*Schoenoplectus proximus* (Steud.) J. Raynal var. *botswanensis* Hayasaka, a new variety, is described from Botswana.

**Key words:** Botswana, Cyperaceae, new variety, *Schoenoplectus proximus* var. *botswanensis*, *Schoenoplectus* sect. Supini.

*Schoenoplectus proximus* (Steud.) J. Raynal is a dwarf annual of *Schoenoplectus* sect. Supini and is known from Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Tanzania (Raynal 1976, Haines and Lye 1983). The species closely resembles *S. supinus* (L.) Palla but differs from it in the smaller spikelets, glumes, and nutlets, and the frequent presence of basal flowers.

As one of the voucher specimens for her observation on the perianth segments of basal flowers in the section Supini Browning (1992) cited the specimen P. A. Smith 3360 with the following note: "*S. proximus* has not yet been recorded for southern Africa...P. A. Smith 3360 (NU, PRE) from Botswana, relates very closely to the species, but style branch number differs...". This specimen was previously identified as *S. proximus* by Dr. K. D. Gordon-Gray in 1988. During my revision of *Schoenoplectus*, I compared the specimen P. A. Smith 3360 with the rest of *S. proximus*. The specimen in question closely resembles *S. proximus* but differs from it in the bifid styles [vs. trifid] and the plano-convex nutlets rugulose with 7–9 rugae [vs. trigonous with 10–13 rugae]. Based on these characters, I recognize a new variety of *S. proximus* as follows.


[Fig. 1]

A typo stylis bifidis, nucibus plano-convexis rugulosis cum 7–9 rugis differt.

**TYPE:** BOTSWANA. Ngamiland: In damp clay mud on the edge of a large grassy pan near the Tsau-XaiXai rd., 19°55.7′ S, 21°27.4′ E, 19 Apr. 1980, P. A. Smith 3360 (holotype: NU). According to the original label, this specimen is a duplicate from SRGH. Browning (1992: 175) states that a duplicate is also in PRE.

Plant 2–8 cm high. Culms 1–3 cm long. Inflorescences with solitary, sessile spikelet; involucral bract 1–5 cm long, longer than culm. Spikelets ovoid, 2–4 mm long, 1.5–2 mm wide. Glumes ovate, ca. 1.5 mm long, ca. 1 mm wide, glabrous, reddish brown-tinged on both sides, pale green along midrib, margin smooth, apex mucronate. Styles bifid. Perianth segments absent. Nutlets broadly obovate, plano-convex, abaxial side rounded, adaxial side slightly concave, 0.9–1 mm long including beak (nutlet body 0.8–
0.9 mm long), 0.7–0.8 mm wide, transversely rugulose with 7–9, obtuse rugae, dark brown, lustrous, base broadly cuneate, apex rounded and cuspidate with beak ca. 0.1 mm long. Basal flower present: style of basal flower trifid; basal nutlet ovate to suborbicular, bluntly trigonous, 1.8–2.2 mm long including beak (nutlet body 1.3–1.7 mm long), 0.5–0.6 mm wide, transversely rugulose, base rounded, apex rounded and cuspidate with beak 0.5–0.6 mm long.

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References
早坂英介：ボツワナから *Schoenoplectus proximus* (Steud.) J. Raynal（カヤツリグサ科）の1新変種

ボツワナから *Schoenoplectus proximus* (Steud.) J. Raynal の1新変種 var. *botswanensis* Hayasaka を記載した。この変種は花柱が2岐すること、果実が平凸レンズ形でその表面の横襞が7-9本であることで基本変種から区別される。

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