



Diversity of *Scleria* (Cyperaceae) in Santa Catarina, Brazil¹

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Abstract

Scleria is the fifth largest genus of Cyperaceae, and the third most diverse genus of Cyperaceae in Brazil. In Santa Catarina the floristic account of Cyperaceae is in need of updating, particularly as the Atlantic forest, home to many species of *Scleria*, is one of the most threatened environments worldwide. *Scleria* is thus a leading candidate for an updated floristic account, particularly so as to identify the conservation status of its species within the remaining natural vegetation. The survey has confirmed thirteen taxa including a new subspecies, *S. georgiana* ssp. *australis*, here described. *Scleria sellowiana* is lectotypified here. A species identification key, morphological descriptions, geographic distributions, global conservation status according to IUCN Red List criteria, habitats, phenological aspects, taxonomic notes and illustrations are provided for each species.

Key words. Conservation status, lectotypification, new subspecies, South America, taxonomy.

Introduction

Scleria P.J. Berg. is the fifth largest genus of Cyperaceae (Heywood *et al.* 2007), comprising 220–250 species (Goetghebeur 1998; Camelbeke *et al.* 2003) worldwide; it is the third most diverse genus of Cyperaceae in Brazil after *Rhynchospora* Vahl (147 species) and *Cyperus* L. (101 species), with 73 species recorded by Alves *et al.* (2014). Although Cyperaceae occur preferentially in the tropics, in open and wet or flooded environments, species of *Scleria* mostly prefer forests with diffused light, but also occur in relatively dry environments.

Important taxonomic and floristic studies addressing the family, and treating the genus *Scleria* in different areas of the Americas, include Core (1936), Adams (1994), Strong (1994, 2007), Kearns *et al.* (1998), Strong & Acevedo-Rodríguez (2005), Guaglianone *et al.* (2008) and Alves *et al.* (2014). In Brazil, however, few recent regional floras focusing on this genus are known (Muniz & Shepherd 1987; Araújo 2009). Barros (1960) reported 15 species from Santa Catarina, based on collections made up until the late 1950s. Since then not only has the vegetation in southern Brazil changed, but species circumscription and nomenclature have

also changed. Species new to science have been described (Strong 1994, 2007; Araújo & Brummitt 2011), prompting the need for an updated account of *Scleria* in Santa Catarina, particularly in the light of the effort to produce a complete inventory of the plant species diversity of Brazil.

This study aims to understand the species diversity of *Scleria* in Santa Catarina, updating the species circumscriptions and nomenclature, enabling their identification and documenting their conservation status worldwide. An identification key, morphological descriptions and general comments on distribution, habitat, ecology and phenology, as well as illustrations, are also presented.

Material and Methods

This investigation was based on primary taxonomic literature and the study of 800 specimens from: BM, CRI, FLOR, FURB, HBR, ICN, JOI, K, MBM, NY (*pro part*), PACA and RB; collections from MO, NY (*pro part*) and P were accessed online. Herbarium acronyms follow Thiers (continuously updated). The sign “!” after the herbarium abbreviation indicates that the type sheet or image has been seen.

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Field expeditions were conducted between 2010 and 2011, the top set of vouchers was deposited at FLOR and duplicates sent to: BM, COL, CRI, FURB, GUA, HB, HBR, HUEFS, ICN, K, MBM, MO, NY, P, PACA, R, RB, SI, SP, depending on the availability of each species. A selected specimen is cited below the description; the remaining material is listed in the Annex as “index of collections studied”.

Species descriptions are based on authors' collections, while the genus description is based on the species found in the area, following Beentje (2010) and Camelbeke *et al.* (2003). Accepted names follow WCSP (2014), and their respective synonyms are found in Alves *et al.* (2014). Only synonyms lately used in the herbaria investigated are cited.

Preliminary IUCN categories were established after applying the ArcView GIS 3.3 Conservation Assessment Tool extension (Willis *et al.* 2003), with values for “extent of occurrence” (EOO) and “area of occupancy” (AOO) calculated in km² (IUCN 2012). The results were analysed and final IUCN Red List ratings produced following the guidelines of IUCN (2014).

Results and Discussion

Scleria is represented in Santa Catarina by 13 confirmed taxa, one of which is a new subspecies. They are found on sandbanks, in coastal fields, highlands and in Atlantic forest occupying different environments, especially forest edges, transitional vegetation between forest and grassland, wet grasslands and wetlands. The highest concentration of species and individuals was recorded in the east of the state, especially in the coastal areas, and in the southern and northern plateaux.

Eight taxa listed for Santa Catarina have a South American distribution, *Scleria sellowiana* Kunth and *S. ulleana* Boeck. being microthermic (Burkart 1975). *Scleria microcarpa* Nees ex Kunth and *S. secans* (L.) Urban are well distributed across the whole American continent, while *S. distans* Poir., *S. gaertneri* Raddi and *S. latifolia* Sw. are pantropical, extending into subtropical areas. However, four taxa are confirmed as endemic to

Brazil: *S. filiculmis* Boeck., *S. georgiana* Core ssp. *australis* A.C. Araújo, *S. uleana* and *S. variegata* (Nees) Steud., the first being microthermic and the latter being macrothermic with its austral distribution limit in Santa Catarina; similarly, *S. leptostachya* Kunth also has its southernmost distribution in this state.

Scleria filiculmis and *S. georgiana* subsp. *australis* have been assessed as Vulnerable under IUCN criteria, both being endemic to southern Brazil; the remaining taxa are assessed as Least Concern. *Scleria balansae* Maury, *S. hirtella* Sw., *S. myricocarpa* Kunth and *S. pauciflora* Muhl. ex Willd. cited by Barros (1960) were all misidentifications, and have not been confirmed in Santa Catarina. This paper presents as a taxonomic novelty a new subspecies endemic to Santa Catarina, and proposes a lectotype for *S. sellowiana*.

Scleria P. J. Bergius, Kongl. Vetensk. Acad. Handl. 26: 142, pl. 4–5. 1765. Type species: *Scleria flagellum-nigrorum* P. J. Bergius, nom. cons.

Perennial herbs, erect or climbing, rhizome slender or tuberous. Culm triangular, generally not branching (except *S. secans*). Leaves developed, sheath winged or not, ligule present or absent; contraligule obtuse, triangular or truncate, membranous appendage present or not; leaf blade plicate, linear or lanceolate, apex acute, attenuated or pseudopremorse, margin smooth, scabrous or pilose. Inflorescence a paniculodium, fasciculate spike or just a fascicle, bisexual; bracts present or not. Spikelet unisexual, androgynous or subandrogynous; staminate or pistillate glumes lanceolate to ellipsoid, brown, ferruginous to vinaceous, apex apiculate, mucronate or attenuate. Achene globose to trigonous-globose, ovoid or ellipsoid, smooth or ornamented, white to vinaceous, trichomes present or not, base mucous or stipitate, entire or attenuate, pores at the base present or not; stylobase usually absent, if present deciduous. Hypogynium when present lobed, cupuliform, membranous, cartilaginous or papillose, margin various; or developed as tubercles at the base.

Key to species of *Scleria* from Santa Catarina state

1. Climbing herbs.
 2. Ligule present. Plant branching. Leaf margins razor-like..... 10. *Scleria secans*
 - 2'. Ligule absent. Plant not branching. Leaf margins scabrous, not razor-like.

3. Hypogynium absent. Sheath not winged. Achene verruculose..... 13. *Scleria variegata*
 3'. Hypogynium present. Sheath winged. Achene smooth..... 12. *Scleria uleana*
- 1'. Erect herbs
4. Contraligule with membranous appendage; achene reticulate-verrucose.....
6. *Scleria leptostachya*
- 4'. Contraligule without membranous appendage; achene smooth, reticulate or rugose.
5. Hypogynium absent.
6. Achene ovoid, slightly sulcate vertically towards the base, pores present
 4. *Scleria georgiana* ssp. *australis*
- 6'. Achene globose, smooth, not sulcate, pores absent 1. *Scleria distans*
- 5'. Hypogynium present
7. Papillose tubercles present, achene rugose or reticulate.
8. Achene ellipsoid with a basal three-lobed disk with a thickened margin, supporting
 and compressing the tubercles..... 2. *Scleria filiculmis*
- 8'. Achene trigonous-globose, basal disk absent..... 11. *Scleria sellowiana*
- 7'. Tubercles at the base of the achene absent, achene smooth or rugose.
9. Contraligule lanceolate. Hypogynium cupuliform, margins ciliate
 7. *Scleria microcarpa*
- 9'. Contraligule triangular or obtuse. Hypogynium three-lobed, margins entire or
 laciniate.
10. Hypogynium somewhat corky, margin entire. Leaf blade 0.5–0.7 cm wide...
 3. *Scleria gaertneri*
- 10'. Hypogynium membranous, margin laciniate. Leaf blade 1–5 cm wide.
11. Achene smooth, vinaceous, black (rarely white) 5. *Scleria latifolia*
- 11'. Achene rugose, white.
12. Herbs up to 70 cm tall. Spikelets up to 70. Achene rugose.....
 9. *Scleria plusiophylla*
- 12'. Herbs taller, from 80 cm tall. Spikelets 100–200. Achene
 tuberculate 8. *Scleria panicoides*

1. *Scleria distans* Poir., *Encycl.* 7: 4. 1806. TYPE: Porto Rico, A. P. Ledru 110 p.p. (lectotype P; isolectotype P). Designated by Raynal (1976).

Fig. 1a-d

Perennial herb, erect, 13–47(–72) cm tall, rhizomatous. Culm 1–2 mm wide, not branching, angle smooth. Sheath 1–4(–5.5) cm long, not winged; ligule absent; contraligule 1–3 mm long, truncate, pilose, membranous appendage absent; leaf blade 3–18 × 0.2–0.3 cm, linear, apex acute, margin smooth. Inflorescence a simple fasciculate spike, terminal, 3–10 × 0.5–0.8 cm, fascicles (3)4–7(10), disposed along the culm; bracts absent. Spikelets androgynous, sessile, staminate glume 2–4 × 1–2 mm, pistillate glume 3–5 × 1.5–3.0 mm. Achene 1.5–2.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm, globose, smooth, glabrous, white (brown if immature), base stipitate, entire, pores absent, basal disk absent; stylobase absent. Hypogynium absent.

Scleria distans is a pantropical species (Camelbeke *et al.* 2003); in Brazil it is recorded

in Amazonian and Atlantic forests, Cerrado and Pampa (Alves *et al.* 2014). In Santa Catarina it is the most common species, distributed throughout coastal regions, from the Vale do Itajaí to the South, highland plateaux and along the far west of the State in open and damp environments such as marshes, wet grasslands, forest edges and disturbed vegetation, as well as in degraded environments such as lawns and roadsides, in sandy, clayey or stony soil. This species is frequently identified as *S. hirtella* Sw., which differs from *S. distans* by a caespitose habit and having pores at the base of the achene (Camelbeke *et al.* 2003; Araújo 2009). Both species have a disjunct distribution between the Neotropics and Africa (Araújo 2009), but in the Americas while *S. distans* is widely distributed including colder regions such as southern South America in Argentina and southern Brazil, *S. hirtella* is restricted to tropical areas (Camelbeke *et al.* 2003). It flowers and fruits all year.

IUCN Red List category - LEAST CONCERN (LC). A common, widely distributed species, including within protected areas, with an EOO of more than 40,000,000 km² and an AOO of more than 35,000,000 km².

Selected specimen: BRAZIL. SANTA CATARINA: Laguna, 7.XII.2010, fl, fr, *Affonso & Zanin 134* (BM, FLOR, K).

2. *Scleria filiculmis* Boeck., Allg. Bot. Z. Syst. 2: 158. 1896. TYPE: Brazil, Santa Catarina, Serra Geral, *E. H. G. Ule 1939* (lectotype K!). Designated by Affonso *et al.* (2013) Fig. 1e-h

Perennial herb, erect, 25–46 cm tall, rhizomatous. Culm 1.0–2.5 mm wide, 1–2, not branching, angle smooth, pilose or not. Sheath 2.5–10.0 cm long, not winged; ligule absent; contraligule 0.5–1 mm long, obtuse, pilose, membranous appendage absent; leaf blade 8–25(–36) × 0.15–0.40 cm, linear, apex acute, margin smooth. Inflorescence a fascicle, terminal or terminal and axillary, 0.5–1.8 × 0.5–1.5 cm, 3–6 spikelets in the fascicle; bracts 1.5–5.5 × 0.10–0.25 cm. Spikelets subandrogynous, pedicellate, staminate glume 4–7 × 2–3 mm, pistillate glume 3–4 × 2–4 mm. Achene 2.0–3.3 × 2.0–2.3 mm, ellipsoid, reticulate, glabrous, white, base mucous, basal disk three-lobed, the margin thickened, supporting and compressing the tubercles, pores absent; stylobase absent. Hypogynium bearing six papillose tubercles at the base of the achene.

Scleria filiculmis is endemic to Brazil (Guaglianone *et al.* 2008), recorded from the Atlantic forest (Alves *et al.* 2014) in the highlands of southern Brazil. Although Core (1936) and Ferreira & Eggers (2008) described this species as “lacking a hypogynium”, detailed study of the type material revealed a hypogynium with tubercles. *Scleria colorata* (an accepted species) is not confirmed in Santa Catarina; the collection *R. Reitz & R.M. Klein 10067* (HBR) identified as such by Barros in 1963 is actually *S. filiculmis*. The inflorescence of *S. filiculmis* resembles *S. georgiana* Core ssp. *australis* and *S. sellowiana* Kunth, differing by the presence and/or shape of the hypogynium, dimension of the leaf blades and the achene surface. *Scleria filiculmis* has been misidentified as *S. balansae* Maury, from which differs by the achene and hypogynium morphology. The latter is confirmed from Paraná but not yet known from Santa Catarina.

IUCN Red List category – VULNERABLE (VU B1ab(iii)+B2ab(iii)+D2). The Atlantic Forest is one of the most threatened habitats in the world (Brooks *et al.* 1999; Myers *et al.* 2000; Fonseca *et al.* 2003) and the restricted distribution of *S. filiculmis* in the Atlantic forest of the southern Brazilian highlands is concerning, particularly when much of this area has been used for pine plantations, cattle ranching and agriculture. The species has so far been found only in the localities of Campo Alegre and Serra Geral in Santa Catarina and Vacaria in Rio Grande do Sul, none of which is protected. The specimen from the vicinity of Vacaria was collected in 2006 by the last author in disturbed Atlantic forest and is the first record for the species outside the state of Santa Catarina. However, the specimen collected in Serra Geral in 1891 (Ule 1939) - the type collection - has no more detailed locality than this. Due to the lack of detail for the type locality it is impossible to be sure of the exact size of the extent of occurrence; however, we can be sure that *S. filiculmis* does not exceed the threshold of 20,000 km² for Vulnerable under Criterion B and also has a restricted Area of Occupancy of less than 20 km² if using a cell size of 2x2 km (IUCN 2014). A further locality from Guaratuba in Paraná remains to be confirmed. Threats to this species are from continuing clearance of the native vegetation for livestock and arable agriculture, and for forestry. Recent surveys in known localities have failed to record the species; further surveys in its three known localities and the surrounding areas need to be undertaken to confirm its present status and the number of mature individuals occurring in each location; additional research may reveal that this species should be re-assessed as Endangered.

Examined specimen: BRAZIL. SANTA CATARINA: Campo Alegre, Morro do Campo Alegre, 7.X.1960, fl, fr, *Reitz & Klein 10067* (HBR).

3. *Scleria gaertneri* Raddi, Accad. Lucchese Sci., Lett. ed. Arti 2: 331. 1823. TYPE: Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, *G. Raddi s.n.* (holotype PI image!). *Scleria melaleuca* Rchb. ex Schldl. & Cham., Linnaea 6(1): 29. 1831. TYPE: Suriname, *C. Weigelt s.n.* (holotype G!; isotypes F!, G!, HAL!). Fig. 1i-l

Perennial herb, erect, (30)–60–130 cm tall, caespitose-rhizomatous. Culm 1–5 mm wide, not branching, angle scabrous. Sheath 3.5–7.0 cm long, winged; wings 1–2 mm wide; ligule absent;

contraligule 2–6 × 1–5 mm, triangular (rare obtuse), glabrous, membranous appendage absent; leaf blade 14–25 × 0.5–0.7 cm, linear, apex acute or pseudopremorse, margin scabrous. Inflorescence a paniculodium, elongated, terminal and axillary, 2.5–8.0 × 0.5–2.0 cm; bracts 6–11 × 0.3–0.5 cm. Spikelets subandrogynous or staminate, sessile and pedicellate, respectively, staminate glume 3–4 × 1.0–1.5 mm, pistillate glume 2–4 × 1.0–2.5 mm. Achene 1.8–2.3 × 1.5–2.0 mm, depressed-globose, smooth, usually glabrous, occasionally pilose, white, base mucous, pores absent, basal disk absent; stylobase absent. Hypogynium three-lobed, somewhat corky, lobe-margin entire, smooth.

Scleria gaertneri is a pantropical species (Camelbecke *et al.* 2003, recorded as *S. melaleuca* Rchb. ex Schlttdl. & Cham.); in Brazil it has been recorded in all biomes (Alves *et al.* 2014). In this State it occurs from the northern coast to as far as the Island of Santa Catarina, including inland areas of the Vale do Itajaí on sunnier edges of humid forests, or less often occupying wet grassland, the edges of sandbank vegetation and disturbed forest remnants. In herbaria it is usually identified as *S. pterota* C. Presl (*nomen nudum*) or *S. melaleuca* (synonym, Longhi-Wagner *et al.* 2010). It differs from the other species by the elongated paniculodium, by its smooth and globose achenes and by the corky hypogynium, trilobed and with an entire margin. It flowers and fruits equally all year long.

IUCN Red List category - LEAST CONCERN (LC). A common, widely distributed species, also found in protected areas, with an EOO of more than 15,000,000 km² and an AOO of more than 17,000,000 km².

Selected specimen: BRAZIL. SANTA CATARINA: Araquari, 16.III.2011, fl, fr, *Afonso & Zanin 198* (FLOR, FURB, K).

4. *Scleria georgiana* Core ssp. *australis* A.C. Araújo, ssp. nov. TYPE: Brazil, Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, Jurerê, 14 Jan.1965, fl, fr, *R. M. Klein & A. Bresolin 6180* (holotype FLOR!).

Fig. 1m-p

Diagnosis: Rhizome slender, culms isolated, contraligule truncate, achenes slightly sulcate vertically towards the base; it differs from the North American taxon which shows a nodulose rhizome, culms in tufts, the contraligule is absent, and the achene ribbed with three ridges (Ball *et al.* 2014).

Perennial herb, erect, 23–52 cm tall, rhizomatous. Culm 0.8–1.2 mm wide, not

branching, angle smooth. Sheath 3–12 cm long, not winged; ligule absent; contraligule 0.8–1.2 mm, truncate, glabrous, membranous appendage absent; leaf blade 3–23 × 0.1–0.3 cm, linear, apex acute, margin smooth. Inflorescence a fascicle, terminal, 0.5–1.0 × 0.5–1.5 cm, fascicle with 3–6 spikelets; bracts 1–6 × 0.1–0.2 cm. Spikelets androgynous and subandrogynous, sessile or pedicellate, staminate glume 3–4 × 1.5–2.5 mm, pistillate glume 2–3 × 2–3 mm. Achene 2.0–3.3 × 2.0–2.3 mm, ovoid, smooth, slightly sulcate vertically toward to the base, glabrous, white, base stipitate, attenuated, pores present, basal disk absent; stylobase absent. Hypogynium absent.

Scleria georgiana ssp. *australis* has been found only in Santa Catarina state, although it has been suggested to also occur in Paraguay (Barros 1960); however, this has never been confirmed and no specimens are cited with which this can be checked. The species is recorded from scarce populations near the coastline, in the Parque Estadual do Maciambú (Palhoça), and formerly in Jurerê beach (Florianópolis) and in Sombrio, the latter being the southern known limit for the species; it is possibly restricted to the Parque Estadual do Maciambú. This taxon inhabits moist sandbanks and sandy marshes. Until very recently both taxa were recognized as one, performing a rather odd disjunction between the neotropical North and Central America and the subtropical region of Southern South America. A careful morphological and ecological study proved to be essential in recognizing this new taxon. *Scleria georgiana* ssp. *australis* differs from others described here based on the achene shape, surface and ornamentation, which has pores present at the base. It was collected with flowers and fruits in January, September and October.

IUCN Red List category - VULNERABLE (VU D2). Discounting the supposed presence of this subspecies in Paraguay, which has been suggested but in the absence of any evidence and never confirmed, it is currently only known from coastal marshland near the Parque Estadual do Maciambú. Other localities in Florianópolis and in Sombrio are no longer thought to be extant. Although the State Park of Maciambú is in good condition, the coastal marshland does not come under this protection, and although much marshland remains outside the park there is clear evidence of agriculture and residential development in the area. Due to the uncertainty surrounding the

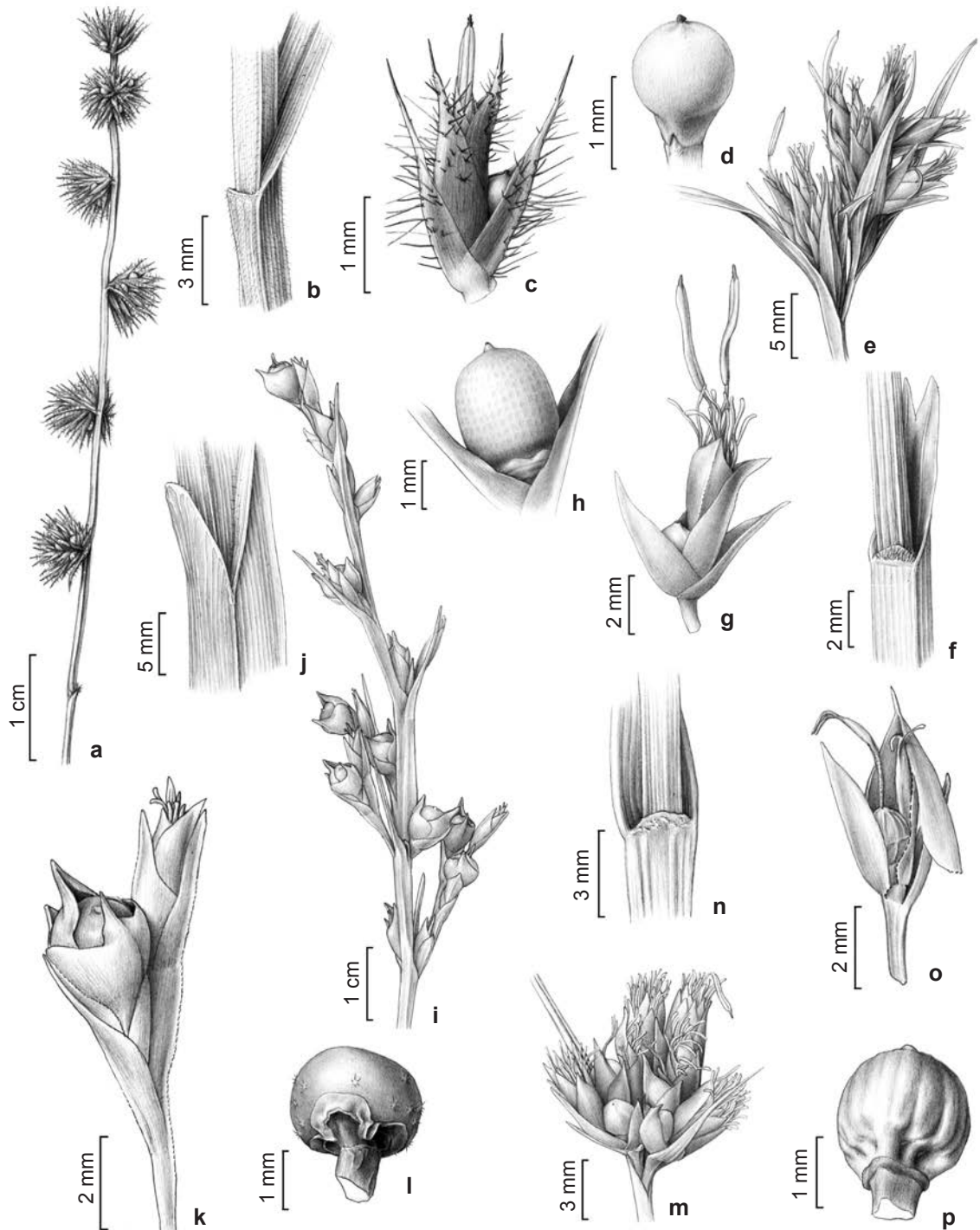


Figure 1 – a-d. *Scleria distans* (a-c. R. Affonso et al. 108, d. R. Affonso & A. Zanin 134) – a. inflorescence; b. contraligule truncate; c. spikelet bearing achene at the base, d. achene. e-h. *Scleria filiculmis* (R. Reitz & R.M. Klein 10067) – e. partial inflorescence; f. contraligule obtuse; g. spikelet bearing achene at the base; h. achene reticulate; hypogynium showing basal disc compressing the tubercles. i-l. *Scleria gaertneri* (R. Affonso & A. Zanin 198) – i. partial inflorescence; j. contraligule triangular; k. spikelets, the basal one bearing an achene; l. achene pilose; hypogynium trilobed, margin entire. m-p. *Scleria georgiana* Core ssp. *australis* (R.M. Klein & A. Bresolin 6180) – m. partial inflorescence; n. contraligule truncate; o. spikelet bearing an achene; p. achene vertically sulcate.

precise localities for this subspecies, but due also to the small number of collections, few remaining localities, the restricted area of occupancy and the continuing development of the coastal marshland area presenting a probable threat to this subspecies, the most appropriate IUCN category is Vulnerable under Criterion D2.

Selected specimen: BRAZIL. SANTA CATARINA: Palhoça, 16.IX.2007, fl, fr, *Tavares & Guimarães s.n.* (FLOR 38973).

5. *Scleria latifolia* Sw., Prodr.: 18. 1788 TYPE: Jamaica, *O. P. Swartz s.n.* (holotype L; photo of isotype NY image!). Fig. 2a-f

Perennial herb, erect, (52–)60–130(–250) cm tall, caespitose-rhizomatous. Culm 5–7 mm wide, not branching, angle scabrous. Sheath (4–)6–15(–22) cm long, winged; ligule absent; contraligule 5–7 mm long, triangular, glabrescent, membranous appendage absent; leaf blade (15–)32–78 × (1.5–)2.5–5.0 cm, lanceolate, apex pseudopremorse, margin scabrous. Inflorescence a paniculodium, terminal and axillary, (5–)6–13 × 2–8 cm; bracts 5–15(–22) × 0.5–1.5 cm. Spikelets subandrogynous or staminate, sessile and pedicellate, respectively, staminate glume 2–4 × 1–2 mm, pistillate glume 2–5 × 1–3 mm. Achene 3–4 × 2.0–3.5 mm, globose, smooth, glabrous, black or vinaceous (rare white), base mucicous, pores absent, basal disk absent; stylobase absent. Hypogynium three-lobed, membranous, margin lacinate.

Scleria latifolia is a neotropical species (Core 1936; Camelbeke *et al.* 2003), present in Amazon and Atlantic forests, Caatinga and Cerrado of all Brazilian regions (Alves *et al.* 2014). In Santa Catarina it is distributed throughout, occupying the edges of moist forests, shaded and humid environments of shrubby to tall sandbank vegetation, well adapted to anthropogenic environments such as edges of trails, roadsides and forest remnants near watercourses. *Scleria latifolia* has pioneer potential in degraded environments. *Scleria latifolia* resembles *S. panicoides* Kunth, differing by the shape, colour and ornamentation of the achene. The achene's white colour when dry turns dark violet when re-hydrated. Locally known as monkey razor (= “navalha-de-macaco”, due to sharp leaf blades), bird nuts (= “baga-de-curio”, staple food for birds) or wild wheat (= “trigo-guarani”, eaten by Guarani people).

IUCN Red List category – LEAST CONCERN (LC). A common, widely distributed species found in protected areas, with an EOO of

more than 17,000,000 km² and an AOO of more than 16,000,000 km².

Selected specimen: BRAZIL. SANTA CATARINA: Itajaí, 16.III.2011, fl, fr, *Affonso & Zanin 191* (FLOR, K).

6. *Scleria leptostachya* Kunth, Enum. Pl. 2: 354. 1837. TYPE: Brazil, *F. Sellow s.n.* (holotype B; isotype K!).

Scleria catharinensis Boeck., Allg. Bot. Z. Syst. 2: 158. 1896. TYPE: Brazil, Santa Catarina, Serra Geral, Capivari, Jan. 1891, *E. H. G. Ule 1923* (lectotype K!, isolectotypes CORD!, P; photo of holotype NY image!). Designated by Affonso *et al.* (2013). Fig. 2g-k

Perennial herb, erect, 40–80 cm tall, rhizomatous. Culm 1–2 mm wide, not branching, angle pilose. Sheath 3.5–6 cm long, not winged; ligule absent; contraligule 1–3 mm long, obtuse, pilose, membranous appendage present; leaf blade 17–25 × 0.3–0.5 cm, linear, apex acute or attenuated, margin pilose. Inflorescence a spike of fascicles or a paniculodium, terminal, 4.5–9.0 × 1 cm, fascicles 5–10, disposed along the stem, each fascicle with 2–5 spikelets; bracts absent. Spikelets androgynous, sessile or shortly pedicellate, staminate glume 3–4 × 1.0–1.5 mm, pistillate glume 2–3 × 1.0–1.5 mm. Achene 0.8–1.0 × 1 mm, trigonous-globose, reticulate-verrucose, glabrous, brown (white if immature), base stipitate, entire, pores present, basal disk absent; stylobase absent. Hypogynium absent.

Scleria leptostachya occurs in South America (Camelbeke *et al.* 2003); in Brazil it spreads from the northeast to the south (Alves *et al.* 2014). Santa Catarina is the southern limit of its occurrence where fewer records have been found, two from the coast, and three to the middle-west, those latter ones collected between 1959 and 1962. This species differs from all other species by its panicle of fascicles, lax here whereas more congested in other species, and also by its achene ornamentation, unique to this species.

A morphological comparison between the type collections of *Scleria catharinensis* and *S. leptostachya*, supported by the protologue of these two species, confirmed that they are the same taxon, as stated by Guaglianone *et al.* (2008). The species flowers and fruits in January and February.

IUCN Red List category - LEAST CONCERN (LC). A common, widely distributed species, also found in protected areas, with an EOO of more than 4,000,000 km² and an AOO of nearly 3,000,000 km².

Selected specimen: BRAZIL. SANTA CATARINA: Curitiba, 8.I.2011, fl, *Affonso et al. 182* (FLOR, ICN, K, PACA).

7. *Scleria microcarpa* Nees ex Kunth, Enum. Pl. 2: 341. 1837. TYPE: Suriname, *C. Weigelt s.n.* (lectotype HAL!, isolectotypes BM image!, BR image!). Designated by *Affonso et al. 2013*.

Fig. 2l-n

Perennial herb, erect, 55–180 cm tall, rhizomatous. Culm 1–3 mm wide, not branching, angle smooth. Sheath 2.5–4.5 cm long, winged; ligule absent; contraligule 2–6 mm long, lanceolate, ciliate, membranous appendage absent; leaf blade 5–20 × 0.5–0.9 cm, linear, apex acute or attenuated, margin scabrous. Inflorescence a contracted paniculodium, terminal and axillary, 3–6 × 1.0–1.5 cm; bracts 5–9 × 0.3–0.8 cm. Spikelets subandrogynous and staminate, sessile and pedicellate, respectively, staminate glume 1.5–2.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm, pistillate glume 2 × 1.5–2.0 mm. Achene 1.5–2 × 1.0–1.2 mm, ovoid, smooth, glabrous, white, base stipitate, entire, pores absent, basal disk absent; stylobase deciduous. Hypogynium cupuliform, cartilaginous, margin ciliate.

Scleria microcarpa is mostly neotropical (Camelbeke *et al. 2003*); in Brazil it is found in all biomes (Alves *et al. 2014*). Recorded in Santa Catarina once in 1955, at the forest's edge in Itajaí; it may no longer be found in this State. *Scleria microcarpa* and *S. uleana* Boeck. share similarities of the achene and hypogynium, but the latter is a climbing species while *S. microcarpa* is not, besides which they differ in inflorescence pattern, in the dimensions of the plant overall and of the achene, and hypogynium margins. It flowers and fruits in April.

IUCN Red List category - LEAST CONCERN (LC). A common, widely distributed species, found in protected areas, with an EOO of almost 17,000,000 km² and an AOO of more than 18,000,000 km².

Examined specimen: BRAZIL. SANTA CATARINA: Itajaí, Cunha, 14.IV.1955, fl, fr, *R.M. Klein 1287* (HBR).

8. *Scleria panicoides* Kunth, Enum. Pl. 2: 348. 1837. TYPE: Brazil, *F. Sellow s.n.* (lectotype HAL image!, isolectotype MO; photo of holotype F image!). Designated by *Affonso et al. (2013)*

Fig. 2o-r

Perennial herb, erect, 80–150 cm tall, caespitose-rhizomatous. Culm 1–5 mm wide, not

branching, angle scabrous. Sheath 2.5–8.5(–26) cm long, green or vinaceous, winged; wings 1–5 mm wide, green; ligule absent; contraligule 2–7 mm long, obtuse or triangular, glabrescent, membranous appendage absent; leaf blade 18–38 × 1.5–3.5 cm, lanceolate, apex pseudopremorse, margin scabrous. Inflorescence a paniculodium, terminal and axillary, 4–12(–15) × 1.5–4.0 cm, with 100–200 spikelets; involucre bracts 3–12(–15) × 0.3–0.7(–1.2) cm, green. Spikelets subandrogynous or staminate, sessile or pedicellate, respectively, staminate glume 3–4 × 2–3 mm, pistillate glume 2–4 × 3–5 mm. Achene 2–4 × 2–4 mm, globose, tuberculate, with translucent trichomes, white, base mucous, pores absent, basal disk absent; stylobase absent. Hypogynium three-lobed, membranous, lobe margin lacinate.

Scleria panicoides is a neotropical species extending to southern South America (Camelbeke *et al. 2003*); in Brazil it is found in the Cerrado, Atlantic forest and Pampa (Alves *et al. 2014*). In Santa Catarina it occurs along coastal areas and inland in highlands, forests and humid environments, especially within and on the edges of healthy forest, hillside forest and from restored mined areas. Recorded recently in coastal forest (Florianópolis) and mountain forest (Joinville), in healthy, well-developed secondary forest, indicating perhaps some tolerance to degraded environments. Besides *S. latifolia*, mentioned above, *S. panicoides* also resembles *S. plusiophylla* Steud. differing in the number and density of spikelets, and achene ornamentation. It flowers and fruits throughout the year.

IUCN Red List category - LEAST CONCERN (LC). A widely distributed species occurring within protected areas, with an EOO of more than 4,000,000 km² and an AOO of more than 2,700,000 km².

Selected specimen: BRAZIL. SANTA CATARINA: Joinville, 17.III.2011, fl, fr, *Affonso & Zanin 204* (FLOR, GUA, K).

9. *Scleria plusiophylla* Steud., Syn. Pl. Glumac. 2: 172. 1855. *Schizolepis foliosa* Nees in C. F. P. von Martius, Fl. Bras. 2(1): 188. 1842. non Hochst. Ex Rich. (1851). TYPE: Brazil, *F. Sellow s.n.* (holotype B; photo of holotype NY image!). Fig. 3a-c

Perennial herb, erect, 30–70 cm tall, caespitose-rhizomatous. Culm 1–4 mm wide, not branching, angle scabrous. Sheath 2.5–6.5 × 0.2–0.5 cm, winged; ligule absent; contraligule 2–3 × 2–4 mm, obtuse or triangular, glabrous or glabrescent, membranous appendage absent;



Figure 2 – a-f. *Scleria latifolia* (R. Affonso et al. 66) – a-b. habit; c. inflorescence; d. contraligule triangular; e. spikelets; f. achene smooth; hypogynium trilobed, margin fimbriate. g-k. *Scleria leptostachya* (R. Affonso et al. 182) – g-h. habit; i. contraligule pilose with a membranous appendage; j. spikelet bearing an achene at the base; k. achene reticulate-verrucose. l-n. *Scleria microcarpa* (G. Hatschbach 33663) – l. partial inflorescence; m. contraligule lanceolate; n. achene smooth; hypogynium cupuliform, margin ciliate. o-r. *Scleria panicoides* (R. Affonso & A. Zanin 204) – o. partial inflorescence; p. contraligule triangular q. spikelets; r. achene tuberculate, hypogynium trilobed, margins fimbriate.

leaf blade 8–28 × 1–2 cm, lanceolate, apex pseudopremorse, margin scabrous. Inflorescence a paniculodium, terminal or axillary, 2.5–8.0 × 1–3 cm, up to 70 spikelets; bracts 3–10 × 0.2–0.5(–1.2) cm. Spikelets subandrogynous or staminate, pedicellate and sessile, respectively, staminate glume 2–4 × 1–2 mm, pistillate glume 2–4 × 3–5 mm. Achene 1.5–4.0 × 2–4 mm, globose, rugose, with translucent trichomes, white, base mucous, pores absent, basal disk absent; stylobase absent. Hypogynium three-lobed, membranous, lobe margin lacinate.

Scleria plusiophylla is widely distributed in South America (Camelbeke *et al.* 2003); present in Atlantic rain forest and the Brazilian central savanna (Alves *et al.* 2014). In Santa Catarina it has been recorded in the Vale of Itajaí and the northern and southern plateaux, found in shaded environments inside moist forest. It flowers and fruits throughout the year.

IUCN Red List category - LEAST CONCERN (LC). A common, widely distributed species found within protected areas, with EOO of more than 2,800,000 km² and an AOO of more than 2,000,000 km².

Selected specimen: BRAZIL. SANTA CATARINA: Criciúma, 8.XII.2010, fl, fr, *Affonso & Zanin 144* (FLOR, RB).

10. *Scleria secans* (L.) Urb., Symb. Antill. 2(2): 169. 1900. *Schoenus secans* L., Syst. Nat., ed.10, 2: 865 (1759). TYPE: Jamaica, *H. Sloane*, Voy. Jamaica 1: t. 77, f. 1. 1707 (lectotype BM! designated by; isolectotype BM!). Camelbeke *et al.*, (2003). Fig. 3d-h

Perennial herbs, climbing, 2–7 m tall, caespitose-rhizomatous. Culm 1.5–6 mm wide, branching, angle strongly scabrous. Sheath 1.5–6.0(–11.5) cm long, winged; ligule present; contraligule 2–5 mm long, obtuse, glabrous, membranous appendage present; leaf blade (12)32–78 × 0.2–0.5 cm, linear, apex attenuate, margin scaberrimus. Inflorescence a paniculodium, terminal and axillary, 3–8 × 1.5–3.5 cm; bracts 2–12(–18) × 0.2–0.5 cm. Spikelets staminate and pistillate, pedicellate and sessile, respectively, staminate glume 3–5 × 1–2 mm, pistillate glume 2–5 × 2–3 mm. Achene 3–5 × 2–3 mm, ovoid, smooth, glabrous (rare pubescent), white, base stipitate, pores absent, basal disk absent; stylobase deciduous. Hypogynium three-lobed, cartilaginous, margin entire, smooth.

Scleria secans is a widespread neotropical species (Camelbeke *et al.* 2003), found in all biomes in Brazil (Alves *et al.* 2014). In Santa Catarina it has been recorded from the Vale do Itajaí and the northern plateau, within moist forests and at their edge. Local populations may form a thicket reaching ca. 7m tall, covering trees of relatively open, disturbed forests, promoting the establishment of other shade-loving species. It is known locally as dog's razor ("capa-cão") because its leaves and culms are strongly scabrous and very sharp. It differs from all other species cited here by its branched culm and presence of a ligule. It flowers and fruits all year round.

IUCN Red List category - LEAST CONCERN (LC). A common, widely distributed species, also found within protected areas, with an EOO of more than 16,700,000 km² and an AOO of more than 14,400,000 km².

Selected specimen: BRAZIL. SANTA CATARINA: Florianópolis, 20.XI.2010, fl, fr, *Affonso et al. 110* (CRI, FLOR, FURB, K).

11. *Scleria sellowiana* Kunth, Enum. Pl. 2: 350. 1837. TYPE: Brazil, *F. Sellow s.n.* (holotype B destroyed; lectotype K **designated here**; photo of holotype F image!). Fig. 3i-l

Perennial herbs, erect, 30–80 cm tall, rhizomatous. Culm 1–3 mm wide, not branching, angle smooth. Sheath 5–10 cm long, not winged; ligule absent; contraligule 0.5–1.0 mm long, obtuse, glabrous, membranous appendage absent; leaf blade 20–30 × 0.1–0.2 cm, linear, apex acute, margin smooth. Inflorescence a fascicle, terminal and axillary, 0.3–1.8 × 0.5–1.5 cm, 2–4 spikelets in each fascicle; bracts 0.5–3 × 0.3–0.5 cm. Spikelets androgynous or subandrogynous, sessile or pedicellate, staminate glume 2–4 × 1–2 mm, pistillate glume 3–4 × 1–2 mm. Achene 1–2 × 1.0–1.5 mm, trigonous-globose, reticulate or rugose, glabrous, white, base stipitate, entire, pores absent, basal disk absent; stylobase absent. Hypogynium bearing six papillose tubercles disposed in three pairs at the base of the achene.

Scleria sellowiana is a subtropical species known from southern South America (Barros 1960) and within Brazil only recorded from the Atlantic Forest of southern Brazil (Alves *et al.* 2014). In Santa Catarina it is distributed along the coastal area, in the northern and southern plateaux, on wet grasslands, along the edges of streams and on sunny slopes. Sellow and Kunth, respectively the

collector of the type of *S. sellowiana* and the author of the species, were based in the Berlin herbarium (B). Although Kunth (1837) did not specify where the type collection was placed, it is reasonable to believe that the holotype was placed in the Berlin herbarium (B). Stafleu & Cowan (1981) state that Sellow's Cyperaceae type collection remains extant at B; however, a recent search was conducted for *S. sellowiana* type material but proved fruitless. It is therefore likely to have been destroyed. Since the K sheet is so far the only Sellow collection found bearing Kunth's handwriting, and it also provides a perfect match of the species diagnosis, it is therefore chosen as the lectotype. *Scleria sellowiana* resembles *S. balansae* Maury ex Micheli, *S. ciliata* Michx., *S. filiculmis* and *S. georgiana* ssp. *australis*, all of which it is often misidentified as in herbarium collections. However, diagnostic taxonomic characters are found in the achene: smooth in *S. balansae* and *S. georgiana* ssp. *australis* as opposed to reticulate or rugose in *S. sellowiana*. *Scleria filiculmis* has a disc compressing the tubercles of the hypogynium, which is lacking in *S. sellowiana*, while *S. ciliata* has sharp projections and cavities at the base of the achene, which are absent from the achene of *S. sellowiana*. The species has been collected in flower and fruit from October to January.

IUCN Red List category - LEAST CONCERN (LC). A widespread species across southern South America, including within protected areas, with an EOO of more than 4,200,000 km² and an AOO of more than 1,500,000 km².

Selected specimen: BRAZIL. SANTA CATARINA: Lages, 7.I.2011, fl, fr, *Affonso et al.* 179 (FLOR, ICN, K, MBM).

12. *Scleria uleana* Boeck., Allg. Bot. Z. Syst. 2: 159. 1896. TYPE: Brazil, Santa Catarina, Tubarão, *E. H. G. Ule* 1373 (lectotype K! designated by Camelbeke *et al.* 2000). Fig. 3m-p

Perennial herb, climbing, 55–180 cm tall, rhizomatous. Culm 1–3 mm wide, not branching, angle smooth. Sheath 2.5–4.5 cm long, winged; ligule absent; contraligule 2–6 mm long, lanceolate, glabrous, membranous appendage absent; leaf blade 5–20 × 0.5–0.9 cm, linear, apex acute, margin scabrous. Inflorescence a paniculodium, lax, terminal and axillary, 3–6 × 1.0–1.5 cm; bracts 5–12 × 0.2–0.5 mm. Spikelets subandrogynous or staminate, sessile and pedicellate, respectively, staminate glume 1.5–2.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm, pistillate

glume 2 × 1.5–2.0 mm. Achene 2–5 × 1.5–2.5 mm, ovoid, smooth, glabrous, brown (white if immature), base stipitate, entire, pores absent, basal disk absent; stylobase deciduous. Hypogynium cupuliform, cartilaginous, margin ciliate.

Scleria uleana is endemic to Brazil, occurring in the Atlantic Forest domain of the South and Southeast regions (Alves *et al.* 2014). Records from Santa Catarina report populations only in coastal areas, occurring at the edges of streams in preserved or disturbed sandbank vegetation. Flowers and fruits from April to December in Santa Catarina.

IUCN Red List category - LEAST CONCERN (LC). Although endemic to southern Brazil, this species is well distributed across that region, including within protected areas. A collection cited from Pará (northern Brazil) needs its identity confirmed. From southern Brazil alone *S. uleana* has an EOO over 1,700,000 km² and an AOO of more than 580,000 km².

Examined specimen: BRAZIL. SANTA CATARINA: Ibiraquera, 6.XII.2010, fl, fr, *Affonso & Zanin* 132 (FLOR, K, NY, RB).

13. *Scleria variegata* (Nees) Steud., Syn. Pl. Glumac. 2: 176. 1855. *Hypoporum variegatum* Nees in C.F.P. von Martius, Fl. bras. 2(1): 173. 1842. TYPE: Brazil, Minas Gerais, Sebastianópolis, *C. F. P. von Martius s.n.* (holotype M). Fig. 3q-u

Perennial herbs, climbing, 120–250 cm tall, rhizomatous. Culm triangular, 1–2 mm wide, climbing, not branching, angle smooth. Sheath 5–10 cm long, not winged; ligule absent; contraligule 2–3 mm long, obtuse, pilose, membranous appendage absent; leaf blade 15–52 × 0.3–0.6 cm, linear, apex attenuated, margin scabrous. Inflorescence a paniculodium, fasciculate, terminal and axillary, 4.5–10.0 × 2.5–4.0 cm, fascicles 4–10 disposed along the stem; bracts 6–19 × 0.15–0.05 cm. Spikelets subandrogynous or staminate, sessile, staminate glume 3–4 × 1–2 mm, pistillate glume 3–4 × 2.0–2.5 mm. Achene 1–2 × 1–2 mm, depressed-globose, verrucose, glabrous, white (rarely brown), base stipitate, entire, pores absent, basal disk absent; stylobase absent. Hypogynium absent.

Scleria variegata is endemic to southern Brazil (Core 1936; Muniz & Shepherd 1987), occurring in the Atlantic Forest domain (Alves *et al.* 2014). In Santa Catarina, a single population has been found in Florianópolis, recorded in 2007 and again in 2010, at the edges of coastal forest. The species is distinguished by its climbing habit,

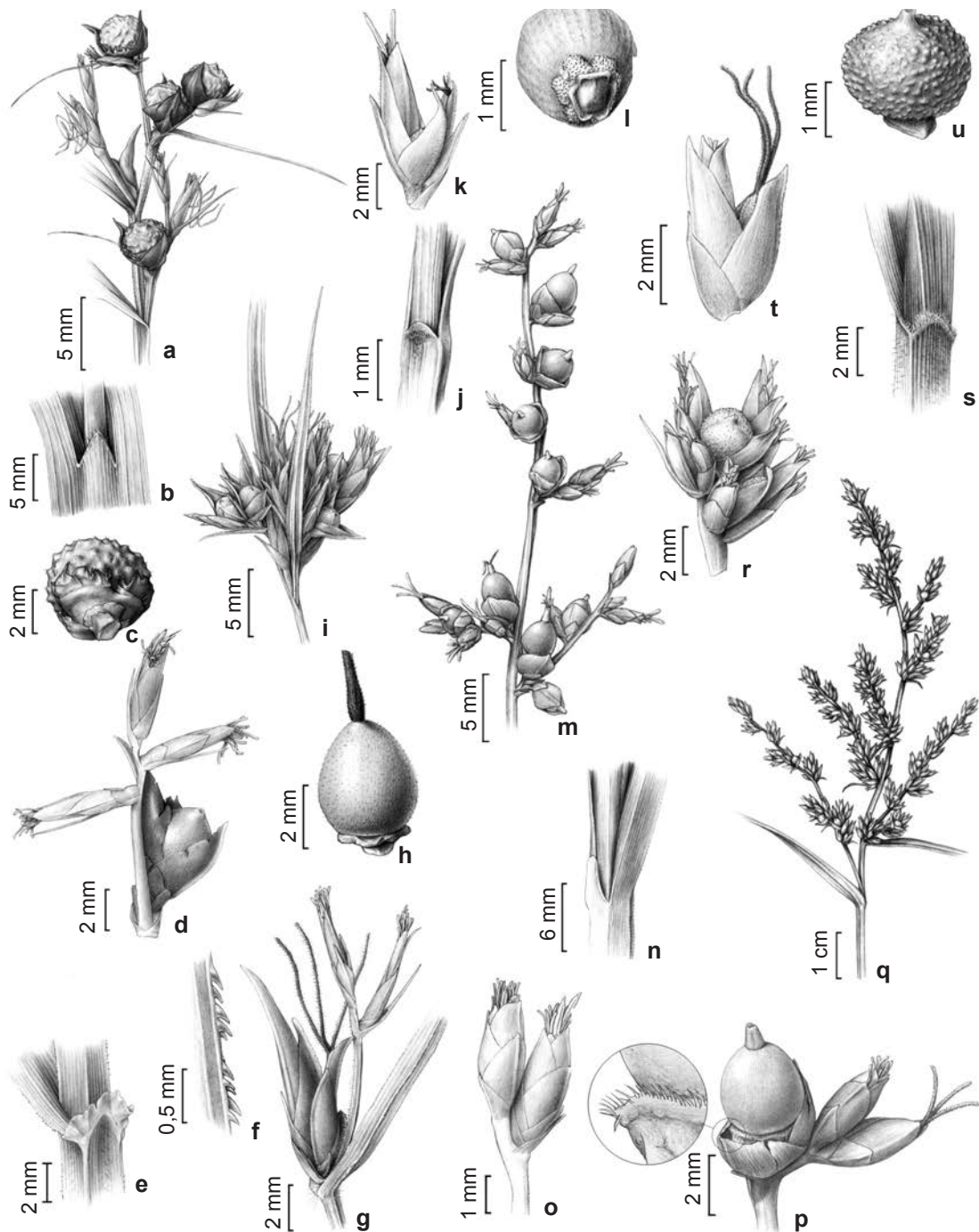


Figure 3 – a-c. *Scleria plusiophylla* (Siqueira 241) – a. partial inflorescence; b. contraligule triangular; c. achene rugose, hypogynium trilobed, margins fimbriate. d-h. *Scleria secans* (R. Affonso et al. 110) – d. partial inflorescence; e. contraligule with a membranous appendage; f. leaf margin “razor-like”; g. spikelets; h. achene bearing stylobase, hypogynium trilobed, margins entire. i-l. *Scleria sellowiana* (R. Affonso et al. 183) – i. inflorescence; j. contraligule obtuse; k. spikelet; l. achene reticulate, hypogynium bearing tubercles. m-p. *Scleria uleana* (R. Affonso & A. Zanin 132) – m. inflorescence; n. contraligule lanceolate; o. spikelets; p. achene bearing stylobase; hypogynium cupuliform. q-u. *Scleria variegata* (R. Affonso et al. 106) – q. inflorescence; r. partial inflorescence showing achene; s. contraligule obtuse, pilose; t. spikelet; u. achene verrucose.

differing from *S. secans* by the absence of a ligule, and differing also from *S. uleana* in the characters of the achene and hypogynium. It flowers and fruits from August to November.

IUCN Red List category - LEAST CONCERN (LC). This species is widely distributed although uncommon within its range, yet it has been recorded from several localities, including within protected areas. It has an EOO of almost 900,000 km² and an AOO of more than 430,000 km².

Examined specimen: BRAZIL. SANTA CATARINA: Florianópolis, 14.XI.2010, fl, fr, *Affonso et al.* 105 (FLOR, ICN, K, NY).

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List of exsiccatae

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