

A NEW FOXTAIL GRASS FROM BULGARIA

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Alopecurus thracicus Penev & Kožuharov, sp. nov. (Fig. 1).

Affinis *A. geniculato* L. sed spiculis cuneato-obovatis glabris, glumis mucronulatis $3/4$ connatis marginibus breviter ciliatis differt.

Gramen annum. Culmi 30–50 cm alti basi usque 4 mm diametro, teretes, leviter striati, laeves, glabri, solitarii vel nonnumquam 2–5-ni laxe fasciculati, geniculati vel erecto, 2–5 nodosi saepe basi purpurascens. *Foliorum vaginae* striatae, glabrae, laeves; inferiores laxae, pallidae, internodiis longiores utriculato-inflatae vel subcylindricae; superiores virides arcte appressae, internodiis demum breviores; ligulae 2–2.5 mm longae, membranaceae, cylindricae, obtusae, tubuliformes, integerrimae; laminae lineares vel filiformes, setaceae, apice acutae, 3–6 cm longae, convolutae, basi carinatae, usque 2.5 mm latae superne minutissime scaberulae, subtus scabrosae et parce pilosae. *Inflorescentia* 1.5–4 cm longa, 2.5–3 mm diametro, spiciformis, cylindrico-fusiformis, ramis unispiculatis. *Spiculae* 3–3.5 mm longae, 1 mm latae, cuneatae vel cuneato-obovatae, flavidae. *Glumae* glabrae, angustae, cuneatae, breviter mucronatae, ultra tertiam partem connatae, superne virides trinervatae, ad nervo scaberulae, carina et marginibus apice pilis setaceis brevibus erectis hispidociliatis terminaliter membranaceae. *Glumella* glumis subbreviora, glabra, albida, membranacea, prope basin arista, fere ad medium geniculata spicula 2–2.5-plo longiori supra genu scabrida praedita. *Antherae* oblongae, flavidae aut virescentes. *Caryopsis* oblonga, acutiuscula, pallide brunnea, usque 1 mm longa.

S E BULGARIA. Distr. Svilengrad: ad pratis humidis prope flumen Maritza loco dicto Kelemeto, 41°10'N, 26°E, 31 v 1959, *Kožuharov* (holo. SOM: iso. SO, K, E).

The species described is a very distinctive one, apart from its common resemblance with *A. geniculatus*, which, however, is very superficial. Both species are annual having their stems nodulose, and their spikelets nearly of the same shape. But no species of *Alopecurus* is known to the authors with spikelets so cuneate in shape and with such glabrous surface or with similar shortly mucronate highly coalescent glumes. We believe its relations, if any, will be found in Asia Minor or the Caucasus, for a great number of Asiatic elements are recorded from East Thrace where our species was found. It seems very probable that most of its populations are to be found somewhere along the southern part of the Maritza river in the territories either of Greece or Turkey. At any rate *A. thracicus* appears to be an endemic species for a small region of South East Balkan peninsula.

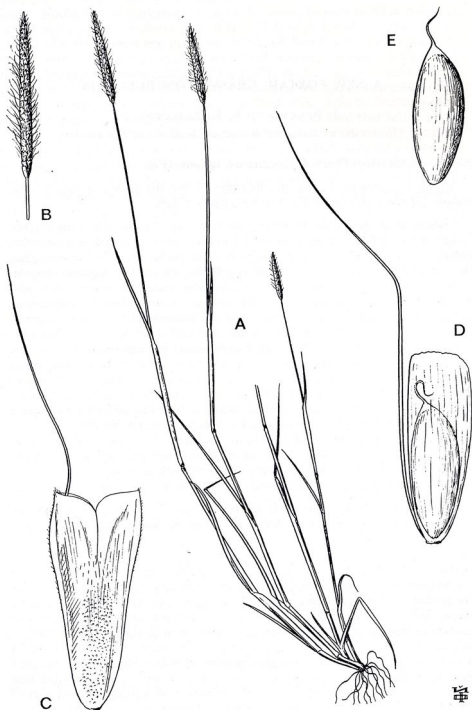


FIG. 1 *Alopecurus thracicus* Penev & Kož. A. Plant, X $\frac{3}{4}$. B. Inflorescence, X 1. C. Spikelet, X 14. D. Spikelet, glumes removed, X 14. E. Caryopsis, X 14.