

DESCHAMPSIA BOREALIS (POACEAE), A SPECIES NEW TO THE FLORA OF MONGOLIA

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Abstract: *Deschampsia borealis* (Trautv.) Roshev. is a species new to Mongolian flora. Two localities of this species were found in the high mountain zone of the central part of the Khangai Mts (Central Mongolia).

Key words: *Deschampsia borealis*, grass, new species, flora, Khangai Mts, Mongolia

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Deschampsia borealis (Trautv.) Roshev. is a taxon closely related to *D. caespitosa* (L.) P. Beauv. Some authors regard it as a separate species (Rebristaya *et al.* 1964; Malyshev & Peshkova 1990) and others as a subspecies of *D. caespitosa* (Hultén 1927; Tzvelev 1976). It is basically a circumpolar species growing on meadows, river banks and lake shores, often with sandy or stony substratum (Roshevitz 1934; Rebristaya *et al.* 1964; Meusel *et al.* 1965; Tzvelev 1976; Malyshev & Peshkova 1990). Outside the Arctic it grows at some localities in the high mountain zone of temperate Asia and America (Hultén 1962; Tzvelev 1976). Its range is incompletely known because it is often not distinguished from other closely related taxa.

Deschampsia borealis and the closely related species [*D. caespitosa* (L.) P. Beauv. and *D. sukatschevii* (Popl.) Roshev.] occurring in Mongolia are differentiated by some features given in Table 1.

In the course of revision of herbarium materials of the *Poaceae* family from Mongolia housed in KRA, it was determined that *Deschampsia borealis* has not been noted in Mongolia before. It was not given in Grubov's key (1982) nor in later floristic papers (Hilbig 1987; Gubanov *et al.* 1989; Németh 1989; Grubov *et al.* 1990; Gubanov & Kamelin 1991; Kamelin *et al.* 1991; Kamelin *et al.* 1992).

I collected this plant in Mongolia in 1974 from two sites in the high mountain zone in the central part of the Khangai Mts (Fig. 1). The collected specimens were compared with those collected by V. Petrovsky in the Magadan region (northern Siberia) (Exsicc. Fl. USSR no. 5604) housed in KRAM, and no differences were ascertained. Their morphological features also agree with those given by Russian authors (Roshevitz 1934;

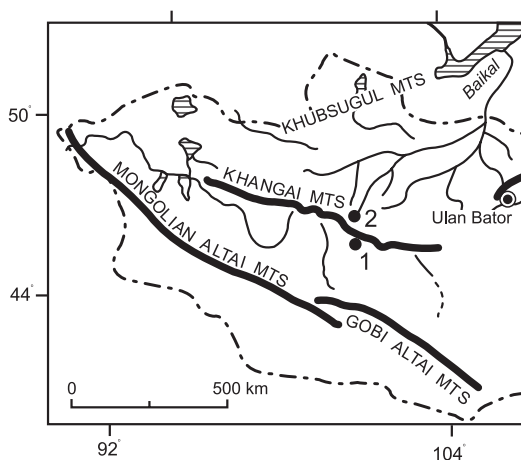


Fig. 1. Localities of *Deschampsia borealis* (Trautv.) Roshev. in Mongolia. 1 – northern slope of Khangai Mts, shore of Terkhin-Tsagan-Nuur lake, 2 – southern slope of Khangai Mts, Tsagan-Turutuin-gol drainage basin.

Table 1. Comparison of characteristic features of *Deschampsia borealis* (Trautv.) Roshev., *D. caespitosa* (L.) P. Beauv. and *D. sukatschevii* (Popl.) Roshev.

Feature	Species	<i>D. borealis</i>	<i>D. caespitosa</i>	<i>D. sukatschevii</i>
Plant height (cm)		Low 15–20(30)	Tall up to 70(125)	Tall up to 70(100)
Basal leaves		Short	Long	Long
Panicle branches		Smooth or somewhat scabrous	Somewhat scabrous	Smooth or somewhat scabrous
Lateral nerves of lemma		Well-marked	Weakly-marked	Well-marked
Awn of lemma		Usually not longer than lemma, arising from middle or slightly below	Usually not longer than lemma, arising from near base	Longer than lemma, arising from middle or slightly below

Rebristaya *et al.* 1964; Tzvelev 1976; Malyshev & Peshkova 1990).

The first location is on a northern slope of the Khangai Mts on the sandy shore of a high mountain lake, Terkhin-Cagan-Nuur, at 2060 m a.s.l. (48°51'N, 99°48'E) and the second is on a southern slope of the Khangai Mts, at a plane ridge above some little valleys running laterally to the Tsagan-Turutuin-gol valley (2720 m a.s.l., 46°50'N, 100°05'E). Here, a community with *Deschampsia borealis* as the dominant species covered a small (*ca* 10 sq. m) wet area without flow on stony-gravelly substratum. The plants formed small tufts in the shallow water. In this place the phytosociological relevé was made on 17 July 1974.

Cover of vascular plants – 50%; cover of mosses – 15%.

Vascular plants: *Deschampsia borealis* 3.3, *Carex orbicularis* 1.2, *Ranunculus natans* 1.1, *R. pedatifidus* 1.1, *Koenigia islandica* +3, *Chrysosplenium peltatum* +, *Stellaria* sp. +;

Mosses: *Bryum pseudotriquetrum* (Hedw.) Schwägr. 1.3.

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