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A New Species of Hawaiian *Eragrostis*

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HAWAII AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Eragrostis Fosbergii, new species (fig. 1).

Plantae perennae, culmi caespitosi 60-100 cm. alti glabri, vaginae glabrae, laminae planae vel involutae ad apices 40-60 cm. longae 5-10 mm. latae scabrae in superficialibus glabrae in paginis inferioribus, paniculae pyramidatae semi-strictae 20-40 cm. longae ramifere paene ad basim spiculiferae axillae ramorum pilosae, spiculae compressae 4-5 mm. longae 3-5 florum, glumae aequales angustae acuminatae 2-3 mm. longae carina scabra ciliata, lemmata acuminata 2.5-3 mm. longa carina scaberula, paleae 2.5-2.75 mm. longae carinae ciliati-sabrae.

Plants perennial; culms tufted, stout, usually from a geniculate woody base, 60-100 cm. tall, glabrous; lower internodes often exposed; sheaths glabrous, basal ones often purple, pilose or glabrous at throat; ligule a dense row of short hairs 0.3 mm. long intermixed with deciduous hairs as much as 7 mm. long; blades coriaceous, flat but involute toward the slender tip, 40-60 cm. long, 5-10 mm. wide, scabrous on upper surface, glabrous beneath; panicles pyramidal, somewhat open, 20-40 cm. long; branches with pilose axils, bearing spikelets almost to base, lower branches glabrous and upper scabrous; spikelets pale to dark green, compressed, 4-5 mm. long, 3-5-flowered, rarely as much as 10-flowered; glumes readily deciduous, nearly equal, slender, narrowly acuminate, 2-3 mm. long, scabrous on the keel, usually auriculate at base, long-ciliate; lemmas acuminate, rather loosely imbricate, somewhat disclosing the scabrous rachilla, 2.5-3 mm. long, occasionally ciliate, scaberulous on the keel; palea usually conspicuous, bidentate or truncate, 2.5-2.75 mm. long, ciliate-sabrous on the keel; anthers yellow, 1-1.2 mm. long; stigmas inconspicuous, yellow, 0.5-0.75 mm. long.

Oahu: Waianae Mountains, east slope of Mount Kaala, in dry forest, alt. 2,400 ft., Jan. 8, 1933, *F. R. Fosberg 9085* (type, Bishop Museum); same location on Mount Kaala, Feb. 11, 1928, *H. F. Bergman*; same location, Dec. 6, 1935, *Whitney 3998*; four miles south of Mount Kaala, on dry, rocky ridge, alt. 3,000 ft., Mar. 23, 1936, *Whitney 4095*.

Eragrostis Fosbergii is unique in having its glumes long-ciliate and at base usually auriculate and having its lemmas occasionally ciliate. This sets it apart from *E. grandis* Hillebr., its nearest relative. It grows in dry, rocky situations and is evidently restricted to Mount Kaala and a few ridges in its vicinity on Oahu.

This new species is named in honor of Mr. F. R. Fosberg of the University of Hawaii, student of Polynesian botany.

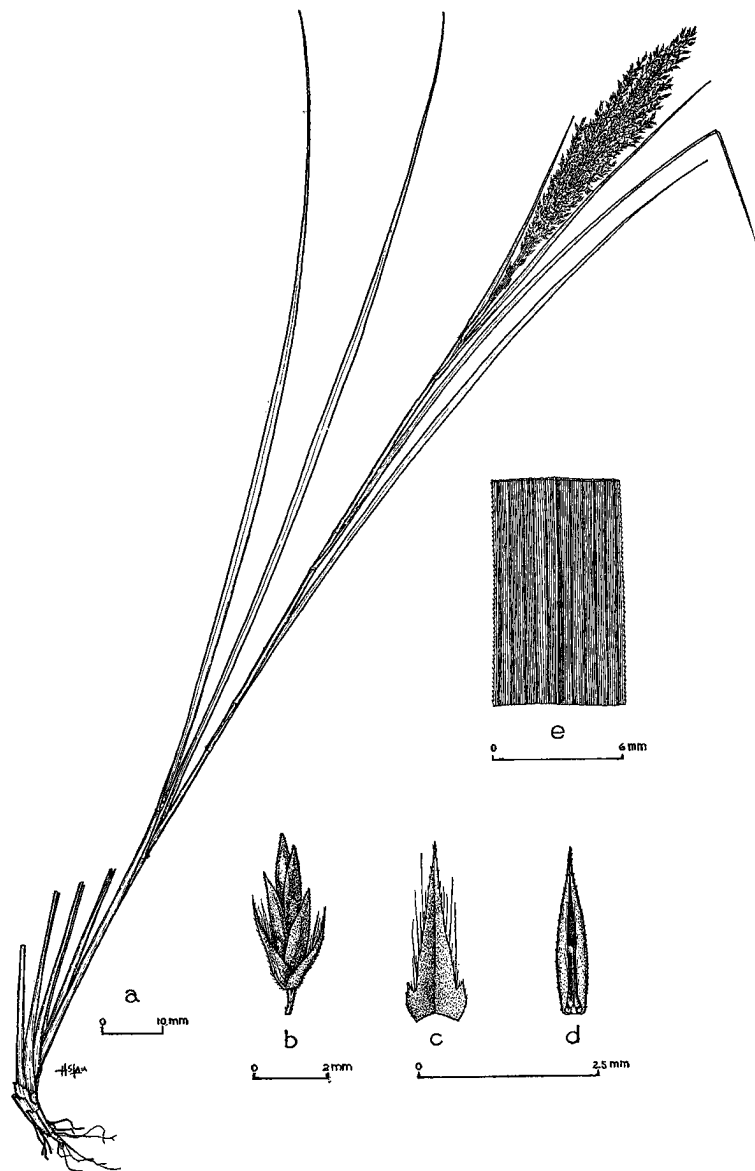


FIGURE 1.—*Eragrostis Fosbergii*: a, habit; b, spikelet; c, glume; d, lemma; e, leaf blade, cross-section.