

Grimmia argyrotricha C. Müll. - Flora 73: 485. 1890.

Type: Tanzania, Mt. Kilimanjaro, 3000-4800 m, 1880, leg. H. Meyer, holotype, B!

Distribution: Afr.2,4

Description

Grimmia argyrotricha grows in greenish to blackish-green, silver-hoary tufts, the leaves are appressed when dry, erecto-patent when moist, ovate-lanceolate, concave-keeled above, the costa is broad, projecting on dorsal side, hair-points are denticulate, flattened below, descending down margins, the margins are plane, incurved above. The distal areolation is bistratose, the mid-leaf cells are isodiametric with incrassate and sinuose walls, the basal marginal cells are short-rectangular with thickened transverse walls, the basal juxtacostal cells are short-rectangular to elongate with thin walls. The sexuality is dioicous, sporophytes are emergent between not enlarged, but firm hair-pointed, perichaetial leaves, the operculum is rostrate.

Discussion

Grimmia argyrotricha was described from Mt. Kilimanjaro, from where it has been collected frequently: Volkens 1374 (BR 50351-05); Hedberg 1271 b (BR 50263-17); Salt 44B (BR 50249-03,04,06), and Gilbert 14b (KRAM 66182). However, the species is not afro-alpine because it occurs at lower elevations also (South Africa, Cape Province, Tulbagh, Great Winterhoek; Hex River Mts., Roodeberg; Schoemanspoort, 18 km north of Oudtshoorn; Worcester, and Ladismith, Toverkop in Swartbergen). It is characterized by dark plants with silver-hoary leaf tips. *G. argyrotricha* is closely related to *G. reflexidens*, differing by a narrow apex with incurved margins, a bistratose distal areolation, and denticulate hair-points. In *G. reflexidens*, the apex is rather broad with flat to slightly incurved margins, the upper areolation is unistratose with bistratose ridges, and the hair-points are smooth. In April 2010, I found *G. argyrotricha* c.sp. in Ethiopia, Bale Mts., Sanetti plateau, Tulu Demtu, alt. 4377 m.

Specimens examined

Ethiopia. Bale Mts. Nat. Park, Sanetti plateau, alt. 3800 m, leg. Greven. nr. Eth. 18; Bale Mts. Nat. Park; Sanetti plateau, Tulu Demtu, alt. 4377 m, leg. H.C. Greven nr. Eth. 19-21; **Tanzania.** Kilimanjaro, Mawinzi slope, alt. 4600 m, leg. G. Volkens nr. 1374, 31-10-1893, BR 50251-05; Kilimanjaro, saddle between Kibo and Mawenzi, leg. O. Hedberg nr. 1271 b, 19-06-1948, BR 50263-17; Mt. Kilimanjaro, camp 2, leg. G. Salt nr. 44B, 29-11-1948, BR 50249-03, 04, 05; Mt. Kilimanjaro, near

Kibo hut, alt. 15.000 ft, leg. V.C. Gilbert nr. 14 b, 01-06-1966, KRAM 66182; **South Africa.** Cape province, Tulbagh, Great Winterhoek, leg. E. Esterhuysen nr. 19.872, 22-04-1951, MO 2549891; Cape province, Ceres district, Hex River mts., Roodeberg, alt. 7000 ft, leg. E. Esterhuysen nr. 20971, S; Cape province, Schoemans poort, 18 km north of Oudtshoorn, 10 km south of Kango Caves, alt. 600 m, leg. R.E. Magill nr. 6122, 19-01-1979, MO 2847087; Cape province, Tafelberg, leg. E. Ester-huysen, 1955, MO 28624228; Cape province, Ladysmith, Toverkop in Swartbergen, MO 2549895; Lesotho, Drakensberg, Pass of Guns, leg. Van Zanten, PRE 556541;

References

Müller, K. 1890. Die Moose von vier Kilimandscharo Expeditionen. Flora 73. Jahrgang No. 27