
Notes on Grasses (Poaceae) for the *Flora of China*, III:
A New Name in *Festuca*

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ABSTRACT. The new name *Festuca sinomutica* X. Chen & S. M. Phillips (Poaceae) is proposed for a species of *Festuca* from Yunnan Province, China.

Key words: China, *Festuca*, Poaceae, subgenus *Drymanthele*.

During the course of revisionary work on *Festuca* L. for the *Flora of China* Poaceae account, it was found that a new name is required for *Festuca mutica* S. L. Lu, which is a later homonym of *F. mutica* Chevall. Lu Sheng-Lian was the author of the account of *Festuca* in the Chinese-language *Flora* (2002), used as the basis for the English-language *Flora of China*, now in preparation.

Festuca sinomutica X. Chen & S. M. Phillips, nom. nov. Replaced name: *Festuca mutica* S. L. Lu, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 30(6): 534, f. 3. 1992, non *F. mutica* F. F. Chevallier, Fl. Gén. Env. Paris ed. 1: 167. 1827, nec *F. mutica* F. X. Wulfen, Fl. Norica Phan.: 145. 1858. TYPE: China. Yunnan: Eryuan, in the vicinity of Nandaping Heishanmen, 2900 m, in meadows, 31 July 1963, *Jinshajiang Expedition 63-6359* (holotype, PE not seen; isotype, NJU not seen).

Festuca is a large genus in China, with 58 species recorded as present in the *Flora of China* account, almost half of them endemic and many of these based on single specimens. This species, *F. sinomutica*, appears to be known only from the type, which has not been seen. However, a full description and detailed illustration are provided in the protologue.

Festuca sinomutica is a member of subgenus *Drymanthele* V. Kreczetowicz & Bobrov, which comprises relatively robust species with the follow-

ing characteristics: large loose panicles, flat leaf blades, coriaceous scales at the base of the shoots, leaf sclerenchyma as individual bands opposite the vascular bundles, awnless lemmas keeled only above the middle, and a pubescent ovary apex.

S. L. Lu (1992) placed this species (as *Festuca mutica*) in subgenus *Drymanthele* and made it the type species of the new section *Muticae* S. L. Lu, including also *Festuca changduensis* L. Liou, *F. dolichantha* P. C. Keng, and *F. modesta* Steudel. *Festuca modesta* occurs in northwestern India and Nepal as well as China, but the others in section *Muticae* are Chinese endemics. *Festuca changduensis* and *F. dolichantha* are anomalous in subgenus *Drymanthele* as they have a glabrous ovary. It is clear that much more work is needed on *Festuca* in China when more material is available.

A key is provided below to separate the four species of section *Muticae*. All are over 60 cm tall, usually with flat leaf blades and with awnless lemmas.

KEY TO SPECIES OF *FESTUCA* SECT. *MUTICAE* IN CHINA

- 1a. Panicle 7–9 cm; florets 9 to 10 *F. sinomutica*
- 1b. Panicle more than 15 cm; florets 3 to 5.
 - 2a. Spikelets 6–7 mm; first lemma ca. 5 mm; anthers 1.5–2 mm *F. changduensis*
 - 2b. Spikelets 7–15 mm; first lemma 7–11 mm; anthers 2.5–4 mm.
 - 3a. Leaf sheaths smooth or scabrid; anthers 3–4 mm; ovary apex glabrous *F. dolichantha*
 - 3b. Leaf sheaths with retrorse hairs at base; anthers 2.5–3.2 mm; ovary apex pubescent *F. modesta*

Literature Cited

- Lu, S. L. 1992. New taxa of *Festuca* L. from China. Acta Phytotax. Sin. 30: 529–540.
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