

## *Stipa albasiensis* (Poaceae), a new species from Inner Mongolia, China

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*Stipa albasiensis* L.Q. Zhao & K. Guo, a new species from Inner Mongolia of China, is described. It appears most similar to *S. glareosa* and *S. caucasica*. The distinguishing characters are given in a key to the three species.

There are about 100 species of *Stipa* (Poaceae) in the world (Wu & Phillips 2006). They are chiefly distributed in the temperate and warm-temperate regions of Eurasia, growing in dry and open habitats. About 23–28 species grow in China. In May 2005, the author Zhao collected some specimens of *Stipa* from Mt. Albasi in Ordos, Inner Mongolia, China. He collected similar specimens from the same location in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, and from Mt. Helanshan in Alashan, Inner Mongolia, in 2009. The species usually dominates a steppe community on mountain slopes at 1450–2130 m above sea level in the arid region of the western Inner Mongolia. After careful study, we concluded that the specimens represented an undescribed species of *Stipa*.

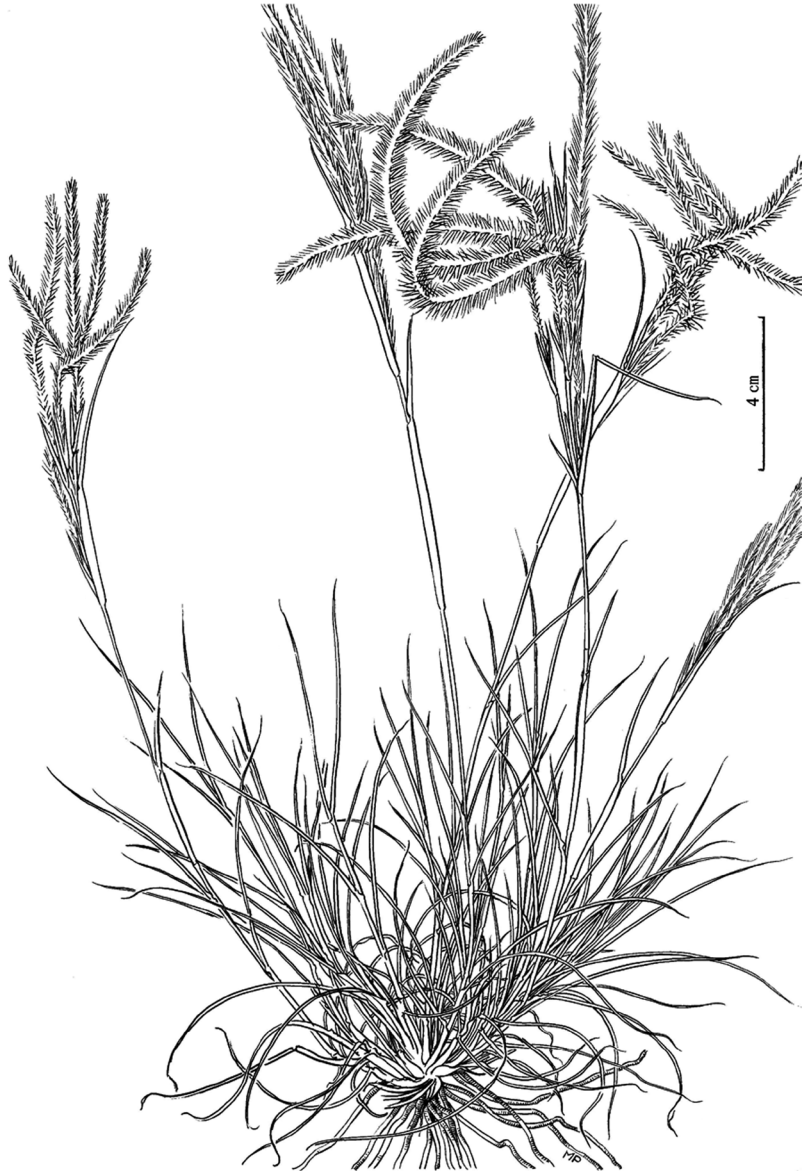
***Stipa albasiensis*** L.Q. Zhao & K. Guo, *sp. nova* (Figs. 1 and 2)

*Stipa glareosae* affinis, sed differt foliis basilibus laevibus, ligula obtusa, 1–1.5 mm longa, ciliis sparsis brevibus, paniculis nudis, columnis

*infernis, pilis ca. 0.5 mm longis, superbis, pilis 1–2 mm longis.*

HOLOTYPE: China. Inner Mongolia, Ordos, Mt. Albasi, 39°38'12.1"N, 106°58'53.8"E, on stony mountain slopes, alt. 1500 m, 12 June 2009 *Li-Qing Zhao 09-001* (HIMC). — PARATYPES (all HIMC): China. Inner Mongolia, same location as holotype, 29 May 2005 *Li-Qing Zhao 05-1010*; 7 August 2006 *Li-Qing Zhao 06-002*; 3 July 2007 *Li-Qing Zhao 07-001*; 15 July 2008 *Li-Qing Zhao 08-001*; Alashan, Mt. Helanshan (38°20'41.58"N, 105°49'13.51"E), on stony mountain slopes, alt. 1700 m, 12 July 2009 *Li-Qing Zhao 09-1001*.

Perennial, densely tufted. Culms 15–30 cm tall, 2–3-noded, lower internodes pubescent. Basal leaves 1/2–3/4 of culm length; leaf sheaths shorter than internodes, scabrid or pubescent; leaf blades acicular, convolute, outer surface smooth; ligule of basal leaves obtuse, 1–1.5 mm, with sparse short cilia, ligule of culm leaves rounded, 1–2 mm, shortly ciliolate. Panicle contracted, 6–9 cm; branches 0.3–1 cm, naked, with 1–2 spikelets. Spikelets pale gray-green; glumes narrowly lanceolate, equal or lower glume slightly longer, 1.9–2.2 cm, margins scarious, apex scarious, acu-



**Fig. 1.** Habit of *Stipa albasiensis* (from the holotype, drawn by P. Ma).

minate into fragile filiform extension; callus pungent, pilose, ca. 2 mm; lemma 7–9 mm, pilose in longitudinal lines, a ring of hairs at apex; awn deciduous, 5.5–7 cm, hairy throughout, 1-geniculate, column 1.4–1.8 cm, twisted, hairs on lower half of the column 0.5 mm, on upper half the column 1–2 mm, bristle 4–5.5 cm, linear or falcate, plumose, hairs 2–3 mm. Flowering and fruiting in May–July.

*Stipa albasiensis* resembles *S. glareosa* and *S. caucasica*, but the three species can be distin-

guished using the following key.

1. Ligule of basal leaves obtuse, 1–1.5 mm, sparsely and shortly ciliate; branches of panicle exposed; hairs on lower half of column about 0.5 mm, those on upper half of column 1–2 mm ..... *S. albasiensis*
1. Ligule of basal leaves truncate, ca. 0.5 mm, densely long ciliate; branches of panicle enclosed in inflated uppermost leaf sheath; all hairs of column 1–2 mm ..... 2
2. Leaf blades usually smooth on outer surface; glumes 3.5–4 cm; awn 7–12 cm ..... *S. caucasica*
2. Leaf blades usually scabrid on outer surface; glumes 1.5–3.5 cm; awn 4.5–7 cm ..... *S. glareosa*



**Fig. 2.** A–C: *Stipa albasensis* (from the holotype, drawn by P. Ma). — A: Ligule of basal leaves. — B: Glumes. — C: Lemma and awn. — D–F: *Stipa glareosa* (from L. Q. Zhao 09-201, HIMC, drawn by P. Ma). — D: Ligule of basal leaves. — E: Glumes. — F: Lemma and awn.

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## Reference

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