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New record for *Eriochrysis* (Poaceae: Andropogoneae) in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, and a key to the species of *Eriochrysis* in Brazil

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The genus *Eriochrysis* Beauvois (1812: 8) (Poaceae: Andropogoneae) includes ca. seven species from America, Africa, and India (Clayton & Renvoize 1986). It is characterized mainly by inflorescences with golden-brown to light-brown trichomes, and heterogamous spikelets: sessile spikelets with a bisexual flower and pedicelled spikelets with a pistillate flower. Six species of the genus occur in Brazil (Filgueiras & Welker 2012), of which three were previously reported for the State of Rio Grande do Sul: *E. cayennensis* Beauvois (1812: 8), *E. holcooides* (Nees 1829: 324) Kuhlmann (1922: 89) and *E. villosa* Swallen (1966: 90) (Welker & Longhi-Wagner 2012).

During intensive field trips in southern Brazil, we found another species of *Eriochrysis* in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, *E. laxa* Swallen (1966: 89). Here, we provide a description and illustrations of this taxon, as well as data on its geographical distribution and habitat. An illustrated key to the six species of the genus that occur in Brazil is also provided.

Eriochrysis laxa Swallen (1966: 89) (Fig. 1D–G)

Type:—BRAZIL. Minas Gerais: Lavras, in wet ground near streamlet, 5 March 1925, Agnes Chase 8729 (holotype US-1256173 photo!; isotype MO-925236 photo!).

Perennial, caespitose, (125–)140–190(–215) cm high, nodes pilose. Leaf sheaths glabrous, less commonly sparsely pilose near the apex; blades glabrous on abaxial surface, densely pilose on adaxial surface, with dense tufts of trichomes 4–8 mm long at the base of the adaxial surface behind the ligule; blades of innovations 25–50(–68) cm long, subfiliform below, 2–4 mm wide above, those of the culm (18–)35–70 cm long, 5–10 mm wide; ligule membranous-ciliate, 1–1.5 mm long. Inflorescence contracted to subcontracted, (12–)16–32 cm long, bearing numerous alternate racemes on a central axis, the lower racemes placed distantly; racemes differentiated into nodes and internodes, disarticulating at the nodes, sparsely pilose, spikelets clearly visible among the golden-brown trichomes. Spikelets paired at each node of the rachis, one sessile and one pedicelled, the pedicelled spikelet falling off first at maturity, the sessile falling off together with a rachis internode and the pedicel. Sessile spikelet (2.2–)2.5–3(–3.5) mm long, obovate, awnless, with bisexual flower; glumes chartaceous, the lower glume glabrous on back, with trichomes 1–2 mm long on margins, with the apex rounded to obtuse, the upper glume ciliate in the upper half of the margins, with the apex acute to subacute; lemmas hyaline; callus hairs reaching 1/2 to 2/3 of the length of the spikelet. Pedicelled spikelet 1.7–2.5 mm long, similar to the sessile, but with pistillate flower. Caryopsis 0.7–1 mm long.