Carex castroviejoi Luceño & Jiménez Mejías, sp. nov. (fig. 1-2)
- C. lepidocarpa sensu Chater (1980), Flora Europaea 5: 310, p.p., non Tausch
- C. lepidocarpa sensu Strid & Kit Tan (1991), Mountain Flora of Greece, 2: 853-854, non Tausch


Speciei Carex lepidocarpa Tausch., similis a qua praesertim, spica mascula late fusiformis, differt.

Perennial, cespitose. Stems 7-40 cm length, trigonous, smooth, erect or slightly curved. Leaves 0.9-3 mm wide, usually shorter than stems, flat, light green; ligule short, slightly protruding beyond the sheath apex, truncate to rounded, scarious, absent from the cauline leaves; anteligule 1-2 mm, rounded; basal leaf sheaths inconspicuous, weak, light brown. Lowest bract 1-6 cm × 0.5-3 mm, as long as or a bit longer than inflorescence, shortly leaf-like, sometimes bristle-like. Male spike 1, 7-20 × 3-3.5(4.2) mm, terminal, widely fusiform to elliptical, with a peduncle 1-15(20) mm; female spikes 1-3, the lowest one 7-10 mm long, generally clustered at stem apex, sessile or short-peduncled, erect, sometimes with a long-peduncled basilar spike, rarely some of them androgynous. Male glumes oval, subacute to obtuse, entirely brown, with a lighter middle nerve; female glumes oval, subacute to obtuse, brown, with a lighter middle nerve and sometimes an inconspicuous scarious margin. Stigmata 3. Utricles 3.2-4.5(4.8) × 0.9-1.5 mm, green to dark brown, those from the lower half of the spike strongly deflexed, those from the upper half deflexed to patent, the apical ones patent to erect-patent, elliptical, trigonous, plurinerved, gradually attenuated into a 1.2-2.2(2.5) mm, deflexed (30-40° in reference to utricle body), bidentate or bifid, smooth beak. Achenes 1.5-1.8 × 1 mm, narrowly obovate, trigonous.

Etymology. This new species is named in honour of our dear friend and mentor Dr. Santiago Castroviejo Bolíbar, main architect of Flora iberica, the most important work in the Spanish botanical history.

Distribution. Endemic from North Greece, Epirus and West Macedonia regions (fig. 3). In addition to type materials, we studied plants from the following stations:


Carex castroviejoi is included in C. flava group (Sect. Ceratocystis), a taxonomically
difficult complex showing poorly differentiated morphological boundaries and frequent hybridization processes. Four species have been widely accepted in Europe (C. demissa Hornem., C. flava L. s.str., C. lepidocarpa Tausch. y C. viridula Michx. s.str.); the high mountain dwarf forms from Iberian Peninsula, Corse and Alps were included in Flora Europaea under C. nevadensis Boiss. & Reuter (cf. Chater, 1980, Flora Europaea 5: 310), although it is now well established that this group is a heterogeneous set of different taxa (Jiménez-Mejías & Luceño, in preparation) strongly supported the taxonomic autonomy of C. castroviejoii from the remaining members of Carex sect. Ceratocystis. Morphological affinity to C. lepidocarpa could be the result of a convergence phenomenon, since our phylogenetic studies show C. castroviejoii as an independent and isolated lineage, not closely related to C. lepidocarpa.

The following key helps to distinguish the bent-beaked taxa of C. flava group from the Mediterranean Basin.

1. Male spike 7-20 × 3-3.5(4.2) mm, widely fusiform to elliptical; utricle beak smooth..........................
   C. castroviejoii
2. Male spike up to 3 mm wide, terete, linear or narrowly fusiform; utricle beak smooth or scabrid.............................................................
   C. lepidocarpa subsp. nevadensis
3. Utricles dark brown, at least in the upper half, (1.5)2.2-3(3.1) mm long; lowest bract setaceous or shortly leaf-like, up to 1.5 mm wide on middle part; apical utricles of each spike erect............
   C. lepidocarpa subsp. lepidocarpa
4. Utricles green, yellow or light brown, longer than 3 mm; lowest bract leaf-like, wider than 1.5 mm on middle part; apical utricles of each spike erect to patent..........................................
   C. flava s.str.

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