

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PMPOA480G0

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Muhlenbergia dubioides* C. Goodding
COMMON NAME: Box Canyon Muhly, Southwestern Muhly
SYNONYMS: *Muhlenbergia palmeri* Vasey
FAMILY: Poaceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Goodding, C. O. 1940. J. Wash. Acad. Sci. 30:20.

TYPE LOCALITY: Box Canyon, Santa Rita Mountains, Pima County, Arizona.

TYPE SPECIMEN: SCS Herbarium (Tucson). W. A. Silveus #3490. 25 September 1938.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: There are approximately 160 species of *Muhlenbergia*, with 44 of these occurring in Arizona (Lehr 1978, Lehr and Pinkava 1980, Lehr and Pinkava 1982). This genus is distributed in North America, South America, and southern Asia (Hickman 1993).

DESCRIPTION: Densely tufted, erect perennial; stems up to 100 cm; leaves up to 50 cm long, 1-2 mm wide; panicle up to 35 cm long, 1.5 cm wide, densely-flowered with appressed branches; spikelets about 4 mm long, about equal; glumes 2-3 mm long, erose at apex, slightly roughened above; awn straight, 3-10 mm long.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: *Muhlenbergia rigens* (Benth.) Hitchc. Has panicles which are seldom over 1 cm wide and is awnless (Bertelsen 2000).

ILLUSTRATIONS: Line drawing of panicle, glume, and floret (Hitchcock 1971).
Line drawing (USFWS).

TOTAL RANGE: Southern Arizona.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Pima County: Santa Rita, Santa Catalina and Baboquivari Mountains; Santa Cruz County: Sycamore Canyon of the Pajarito Mountains; Cochise County: Canelo Hills and Huachuca Mountains.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Perennial clump with erect stems.

PHENOLOGY: August to November.

BIOLOGY: Stems are erect when flowering but droop considerably by the next spring.

HABITAT: Rocky slopes in canyons and along stream courses, often on cliffs.

ELEVATION: 2,750 - 6,000 ft (839 - 1830 m).