Some Monstrosities in Spikelets of Eragrostis and Setaria

By W. J. Beal

In central Michigan we usually have a severe frost by September 5th–15th, but in 1898, it was delayed until about October 7th. This unusual delay of frost with warm weather and moisture enough was favorable for late growth of some plants.

On October 6th, I found a few plants of *Eragrostis major* Host., a common weed among grasses, which had apparently, like most others of its kind, made plans for closing its season of growth early in September, maturing spikelets 6 mm. long with 12–18 florets well filled with grain, but before drying up and dying—the weather was so fine—a new growth of the rachilla was made prolonging the axis to 17 mm. with 32 florets (Fig. 4), more than double the original length (Fig. 3). This new growth was not able to mature grain.

The first growth was broad and faded; the new was slender and olive green, making a sharp contrast in appearance.

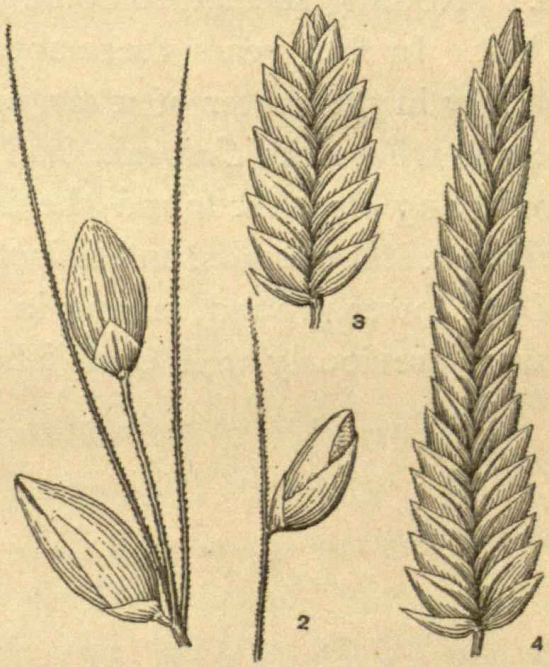

Fig. 1, 2. *Chamaeraphis viridis.* 3, 4. *Eragrostis major.*

An increased number of florets has been recorded by others in *Hordeum, Lolium, Avena* and *Catabrosa,* but I have seen no account of this in *Eragrostis major.* From countries with warmer

seasons, I have heard of spikelets of *Eragrostis major* containing as many as 50 florets on an axis 20 mm. long.

The spikelets of *Chamaeraphis* (*Setaria*) *viridis* (L.) Porter, bear 1–5 persistent, awnlike, barren branches or bristles.

In October, 1898, in rich ground, I found several thrifty plants of this species, in which a considerable number of the upper bristles bore at the apex, each a spikelet, and in one case, a spikelet was borne on the side of a bristle about two-thirds the distance from the base to the top (Fig. 2). The specimens with spikelets on the bristles confirm the statement, if it needs any further confirmation, that these bristles are actually branches and not mere hairs.

Notes on Cabomba Caroliniana A. Gray

BY W. J. BEAL

Perhaps it is ten years ago that I bought some small plants of this species of the water-lily family and placed in a small pond in the botanic garden. Nothing seemed to come of them, and they were given up for lost. In four years, there appeared some plants in considerable quantity in the center of a larger pond below and connected with the one where the *Cabomba* had been planted. I supposed it was something else, but found the flowers to be those of the long-lost *Cabomba*. It spreads, and is inclined to take complete possession of the lower ground, mixing in and crowding the water lilies which were previously well established.