

# The end of *Grimmia limprichtii*

In this short note, **Henk Greven** discusses why he thinks that that *Grimmia limprichtii* should be synonymized with *Grimmia tergestina*

**G***rimmia limprichtii* was discovered by Friedrich Kern (1897) in South Tirol, Italy, on an inclined limestone wall above Passo di Rolle at an elevation of 2,100 m. In 1905, it was found by W. & C. Trautman in the Berner Alps at 2,660 m elevation. Limpricht (1904) considered it to be a distinct species, and later Loeske (1930) gave a detailed description. However, Loeske found *G. anodon* in the vicinity of the plants, and because *G. anodon* occasionally has muticous leaves, he considered *G. limprichtii* a muticous form of this species. This concept was accepted by Mönkemeyer (1927) and subsequently by Van der Wijk *et al.* (1962). As a result of this, *G. limprichtii* became a forgotten species, not mentioned in Corley *et al.* (1981).

In 1992, I studied samples of *G. limprichtii* from the University of Zürich herbarium, stored under *G. anodon*. Because these deviated in many characters from the autoicous, always richly sporulating *G. anodon*, I followed Limpricht in considering *G. limprichtii* to be a distinct species (Greven, 1995; Greven & Sotiaux, 1995). However, Maier & Geissler (1995) synonymized *G. limprichtii* with *G. tergestina*, but Muñoz & Pando (2000) again synonymized it with *G. anodon*.

In 2007, I visited Tibet, and there found sporulating *G. tergestina*, associated with muticous-leaved male plants, comparable in all characters with *G. limprichtii*, between Karo la pass and Lang la, at an elevation of 4,850 m,

△ *Grimmia tergestina*, Male and female plants of *Grimmia tergestina* on basic sandstone in Tibet. Henk Greven

on boulders of basic sandstone. Based on these observations, it is my opinion that Maier & Geissler (1995) have correctly synonymized *G. limprichtii* with *G. tergestina*.

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