

***SCHMIDTIA* (POACEAE): A GENUS NEW TO PAKISTAN**

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Shortly after the text of Poaceae was completed for the Flora of Pakistan, the author received a small consignment of specimens collected in 1980 at Gangri, about 100 miles northwest of Karachi, by H. Hartmut, a research student from the Institute of Geography, Giessen, Germany. Among them were two specimens of *Schmidtia pappophoroides* Steudel, a species of a genus new not only to Pakistan, but to the continent of Asia.

Schmidtia Steudel is a genus of two species: *S. kalahariensis* Stent is an annual and occurs mainly in southern Africa (Angola, Namibia, Botswana and South Africa) with outliers in Chad and the Sudan; *S. pappophoroides* is a perennial found throughout tropical Africa, in the Cape Verde Islands and on Socotra (see Launert in Bol. Soc. Brot., ser. 2, 39: 303-322, 1965 for a full account of the genus; and Fl. Trop. E. Africa, Gram. : 165, 1970, for an account of *S. pappophoroides*). The discovery of the genus in Pakistan marks an important extension to its range.

Schmidtia belongs in tribe Pappophoreae along with *Enneapogon* Desv. ex P. Beauv. (and a few other genera in Africa and America) with which it shares the characteristic many-nerved lemma, but whereas in *Enneapogon* each of the nerves (usually 9) is produced beyond the body of the lemma into an awn, in *Schmidtia* the lemma itself has 6 hyaline lobes alternating with 5 awns; the lobes themselves have a central nerve and this may sometimes be produced into a mucro or short awn.

S. pappophoroides has a short rhizome accompanied by long surface stolons. The culms are 30-90 cm high and topped with a loose or only slightly contracted panicle.