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FOUR NEW SPECIES OF *UNCINIA* (CYPERACEAE) FROM NORTHERN SOUTH AMERICA

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ABSTRACT

Four new species of *Uncinia* (Cyperaceae) are described from northern South America. Three of them, *U. lacustris*, *U. paludosa*, and *U. tenuifolia*, belong in sect. *Platyandrae*; the fourth, *U. subsacculata*, belongs in sect. *Uncinia*. Three of the new species are known only from Ecuador, whereas *U. paludosa* has also been collected in Colombia.

Key words: Colombia, Cyperaceae, Ecuador, *Uncinia lacustris*, *U. paludosa*, *U. subsacculata*, *U. tenuifolia*.

INTRODUCTION

All of the 60 to 70 species of *Uncinia* Pers. (Cyperaceae) occur south of the Tropic of Cancer, with slightly over 20 growing in the mountains and cooler regions of South America. Five species have previously been reported from the northern half of the continent (Kunth 1837; Kükenthal 1909; Steyermark 1951). In this paper, we describe four new species of *Uncinia* from northern South America.

DESCRIPTIONS AND COMMENTS

***Uncinia lacustris* G. Wheeler, sp. nov.** Fig. 2, 6B

TYPE.—ECUADOR. Prov. Pichincha: Páramo de Guamani, about 5 km W of Paso de la Virgen, 00° 18' S. lat., 78° 14' W. long., alt. 3900 m, at small lake, 29 Mar 1984, *Lægaard 51887* (holotype: AAU!; isotypes: GENT, MIN!, NY, QCA!).

Herbae laxae caespitosae; culmi 5.5–23 cm alti; vaginae basales brunneo-purpureae, glabrae. Folia 5–7, basilaria; laminae 3.5–14 cm longae, 1.5–3 mm latae; ligulae 0.8–1.5 mm longae. Spica solitaria, terminalis, androgyna, 2.5–3.8 cm longa, 1.5–2.3 mm lata. Pars mascula 5–10 mm longa, 7–15-flora. Pars feminea ca. 25–45-flora; squamae pistillatae persistentes, 2.6–3.5(–4) mm longae, 1.4–1.8 mm latae, coriaceae, apice albo ciliolatae. Perigynia 2.8–3.6 mm longa, 0.8–1.2 mm lata, superne scabrido-hispidula, marginibus ciliata. Achenium 1.9–2.3 mm longum, 0.9–1.1 mm latum; rachilla 4–5.4 mm longa, exserta pars 1.5–2.7 mm longa, glabra. Stigmata 3. Antherae 3, 0.9–1.2 mm longae, ca. 0.2 mm latae; filamenta linearia dilatata, ca. 0.2 mm lata.

Plants loosely caespitose from short, creeping rhizomes; rhizomes 1.7–2.3 mm thick, dark reddish brown. Fertile culms 5.5–23 cm tall, 0.6–0.8 mm thick, erect or slightly curved, from shorter than to exceeding the leaves, obscurely trigonous to nearly terete, smooth, with glabrous, reddish brown basal sheaths. Leaves 5–7, basal; blades 3.5–14 cm long, 1.5–3 mm wide (average 2.2 mm), ascending, rigid, flat or channeled (especially proximally), glabrous, the margins scabrous (a mixture of antrorse and dolabriform hairs), terminating in a 3-angled, scabrous attenuate tip; inner band of leaf sheaths hyaline or reddish brown-tinged, glabrous, the apex slightly concave; ligules 0.8–1.5 mm long, rounded to subacute, wider than long. Inflorescence a solitary, androgynous spike, 2.5–3.8 cm long, 1.5–2.3 mm wide, linear. Staminate part 5–10 mm long, 7–15-flowered; scales 1.6–2.8 mm long, 0.8–1.4 mm wide, oblong to slightly obovate, obtuse, glabrous, pale brown or reddish brown-tinged, 1-veined, the tips with hyaline margins and ciliolate. Pistillate part tightly flowered with ca. 25–45 perigynia; scales persistent, 2.6–3.5(–4) mm long, 1.4–1.8 mm wide, from shorter than to slightly exceeding the perigynia, oblong to slightly obovate, obtuse to subacute, coriaceous, glabrous, reddish brown and stramineous center, 1(–3)-veined, the tips with hyaline margins and ciliolate, the lowermost one infrequently with a scabrous-ciliate awn up to 7.5 mm long. Perigynia 2.8–3.6 mm long, 0.8–1.2 mm wide, elliptical, appressed hispid distally, smooth or sparsely hispid proximally,

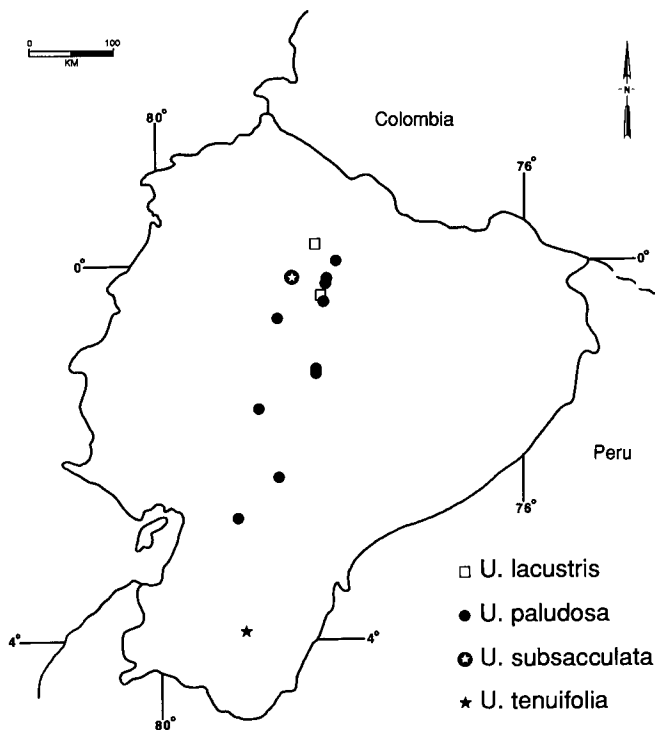


Fig. 1. Map of Ecuador in northern South America showing the distributions of *Uncinia lacustris*, *U. paludosa*, *U. subsacculata*, and *U. tenuifolia*. The single known locality for *U. paludosa* in Colombia is not shown on the map.

the margins ciliate from apex to near the base with the longest hairs distally, stramineous to reddish brown, 2 veins prominent and the rest faint, tapered to the base; perigynium beak conical, appressed hispid, the margins densely ciliate. Achenes 1.9–2.3 mm long, 0.9–1.1 mm wide, compressed-trigonus with more or less flat, oblong sides, tightly enveloped by the perigynium, brownish, sessile. Rachilla 4–5.4 mm long, projecting beyond orifice of perigynium, the exerted portion 1.5–2.7 mm long, smooth, stramineous or pale brown, the hook 0.9–1.2 mm long and stramineous or pale brown (particularly the descending part). Stigmas 3. Anthers 3, 0.9–1.2 mm long, ca. 0.2 mm wide; filaments linear, dilated (ca. 0.2 mm wide), as wide as or wider than the anthers.

PARATYPE.—ECUADOR. Prov. Imbabura: Volcán Cotacachi, 00° 22' N. lat., 78° 20' W. long., alt. 3900–4100 m, páramo, 6 Jun 1985, *Lægaard* 54497B (AAU!).

Uncinia lacustris is known from two sites in Ecuador (Fig. 1), where it grows in páramo at elevations from about 3900–4100 m. Plants with mature fruit have been collected in late March and early June. The

epithet refers to the occurrence of this species on the wet margins of lakes.

Uncinia lacustris (Fig. 2) somewhat resembles *U. paludosa* (described below; Fig. 3) but differs by having smaller perigynia (cf. Fig. 6B and 6C) and achenes as well as narrower leaves and shorter rachillae and pistillate scales. Based on characteristics of its stamens and perigynia, the new species belongs in sect. *Platyandrae* C. B. Clarke (Clarke 1883; Kükenthal 1909), i.e., the staminal filaments are as wide as or wider than the anthers and the margins of the appressed-hispid perigynia are ciliate from the apex to near the base.

Although the stature of *Uncinia lacustris* is somewhat similar to that of *U. meridensis* Steyermark, which was originally described from Venezuela (Steyermark 1951), the former species differs from the latter in several morphological features. Indeed, as intimated elsewhere (Hooper 1968), *U. meridensis* belongs in sect. *Uncinia*.

***Uncinia paludosa* G. Wheeler & Goetghebeur, sp. nov.**
Fig. 3, 6C

TYPE.—ECUADOR. Prov. Chimborazo: páramo above Azul along road to Osogochi, 02° 18' S. lat., 78° 42' W. long., alt. 4200 m, swamp, 26 Apr 1988, *Lægaard* 71014 (holotype: AAU!; isotypes: GENT, MIN!, NY).

Herbae laxae caespitosae; culmi 10–80 cm alti; vaginae basales brunneo-prupureae, glabrae. Folia 6–10, basilaria; laminae 5–29 cm longae, 3–5.5 mm latae; ligulae 1–2 mm longae. Spica solitaria, terminalis, androgyna, 3.4–8.4 cm longa, 1.8–3 mm lata. Pars mascula 7–12 mm longa, 9–17-flora. Pars feminea ca. 25–50-flora; squamae pistillatae persistentes, 4–6.2 mm longae, 1.2–2 mm latae, coriaceae, apice albo ciliolata. Perigynia 4.6–5.3 mm longa, 1–1.3 mm lata, superne scabrido-hispidula, marginibus ciliolatae. Achenium 2.2–2.6 mm longum, 0.8–1 mm latum; rachilla 6.4–7.8 mm longa, glabra, exserta pars 2.4–4.2 mm longa. Stigmata 3. Antherae 3, 1.1–1.7 mm longae, ca. 0.2 mm latae; filamenta linearia dilatata, 0.2–0.3 mm lata.

Plants loosely caespitose from short, creeping rhizomes; rhizomes 1.8–3 mm thick, dark reddish brown. Fertile culms 10–80 cm tall, 0.7–1.4 mm thick, erect or slightly curved, usually exceeding the leaves, obscurely trigonous, smooth, with glabrous, dark reddish brown basal sheaths. Leaves 6–10, basal; blades 5–29 cm long, 3–5.5 mm wide (average 4 mm), ascending, rigid, flat or channeled (at least proximally), coriaceous, glabrous, the margins antrorsely scabrous, terminating in a 3-angled, scabrous attenuate tip; inner band of leaf sheaths hyaline or pale reddish brown, glabrous, slightly thickened at the usually reddish brown-tinged mouth, the apex concave; ligules 1–2

Fig. 2–5. 2. *Uncinia lacustris*, habit, from *Lægaard* 51887 (MIN), isotype.—3. *Uncinia paludosa*, habit, from *Lægaard* 71014 (MIN), isotype.—4. *Uncinia tenuifolia*, habit, from *Lægaard et al.* 90884 (MIN), isotype.—5. *Uncinia subsacculata*, habit, from *Lægaard* 54469A (MIN), isotype. (Bar = 1 cm.)



mm long, rounded, wider than long. Inflorescence a solitary, androgynous spike, 3.4–8.4 cm long, 1.8–3 mm wide, linear. Staminate part 7–12 mm long, 9–17-flowered; scales 2.2–3.5 mm long, 1–1.6 mm wide, oblong to ovate, obtuse, glabrous, stramineous or pale brown to brown, 1-veined, the tips with narrow hyaline margins and ciliolate. Pistillate part more or less tightly flowered with ca. 25–50 perigynia; scales persistent, 4–6.2 mm long, 1.2–2 mm wide, about equaling to slightly exceeding the perigynia, oblong to ovate, obtuse, coriaceous, glabrous, pale brown to brown and stramineous center, 1-veined, the tips with narrow hyaline margins and ciliolate, the lowermost one sometimes with a scabrous-ciliate awn up to 3 cm long. Perigynia 4.5–5.4 mm long, 1–1.3 mm wide, narrowly elliptical, appressed hispid distally, smooth or sparsely hispid proximally, the margins ciliate from apex to near the base with the longest hairs distally, stramineous or pale reddish brown to castaneous, 2 veins prominent and 9–13 faint veins in the proximal half, tapered to a stipitatelike base; perigynium beak conical, appressed hispid, the margins densely ciliate. Achenes 2.2–2.6 mm long, 0.8–1 mm wide, compressed-trigonus with more or less flat, oblong sides, tightly enveloped by the perigynium, brownish, sessile. Rachilla 6.4–7.8 mm long, projecting beyond orifice of perigynium, the exserted portion 2.4–4.2 mm long, smooth, whitish green or stramineous, the hook 1–1.4 mm long and stramineous or reddish brown (particularly the descending part). Stigmas 3. Anthers 3, 1.1–1.7 mm long, ca. 0.2 mm wide; filaments linear, dilated (0.2–0.3 mm wide), as wide as or wider than the anthers.

Additional Specimens Examined.—COLOMBIA. Arauca: Sierra Nevada del Cocuy, Quebrada El Playón, alt. 3625 m, 9 Jun 1973, Cleef 10057 (GB).—ECUADOR. Prov. Azuay: Páramo de las Cajas, W of Cuenca, alt. 4000–4150 m, 2 Sep 1984, Lægaard 52840 (AAU).—Prov. Bolívar/Chimborazo: road between Guaranda and Riobamba, alt. 4050–4150 m, 10 Jul 1990, Lægaard 71745 (AAU).—Prov. Cotopaxi: Quebrada de la Río Blanco, Páramo de la Cooperativo Cotopilalau, alt. 4000 m, 2 Feb 1984, Lægaard 51301A (AAU).—Prov. Napo: N side of Volcán Los Puntos, alt. 4150–4200 m, 26 Jul 1985, Lægaard 54733 (AAU); Llanganati, páramo SE of Chosa Aucacocha, alt. 3800–3900 m, 15 May 1982, Øllgaard et al. 38475 (AAU, GENT, MIN); Llanganati, Río Golpe, just north of Chosa Aucacocha, alt. 3600 m, 16 May 1982, Øllgaard et al. 38666 (AAU, GENT, MIN).—Prov. Pichincha: Páramo de Guamani, close to Paso de la Virgen, alt. 4050 m, 8 Feb 1984, Lægaard 51310 (AAU, GENT, MIN); Páramo de Guamani, about 5 km W of Paso de la Virgen, alt. 3700–3800 m, 19–20 May 1984, Lægaard 52185 (AAU, GENT, QCA); road between Olmedo and Laguna San Marcos, alt. 3600 m, 10 Jul 1980, Øllgaard et al. 34404 (AAU, GENT, MIN); Páramo de Papallacta, Laguna de Hoyas, alt. 4050 m, 8 Aug 1987, Ramsay & Merrow-Smith 162 (QCA).

Uncinia paludosa is known from several sites in Ecuador (Fig. 1) and one locality in the Sierra Nevada del Cocuy in northeastern Colombia. It grows in páramo, at elevations from about 3600 to 4200 m, and

frequent bogs and swamps and other marshy places. At the type locality, it was growing in a swamp with the rushes *Distichia acicularis* Balslev & Lægaard and *Rostkovia magellanica* (Lam.) Hook. f. and other cyperaceous plants including *Oreobolus ecuadorensis* T. Koyama and *Eleocharis* sp. Flowering plants have been collected in February and those with mature fruit from April through July. The epithet refers to the occurrence of this species in marshy habitats.

This species (Fig. 3) resembles *Uncinia macloviana* Gaudich. but differs by having smaller perigynia and achenes. Moreover, in *U. macloviana* the perigynia are longer than the pistillate scales, whereas in *U. paludosa* the scales are about equal to or slightly exceed the perigynia. *Uncinia paludosa* also resembles *U. lacustris* but differs by having wider leaves and longer perigynia, achenes, rachillae, and pistillate scales. Like *U. lacustris*, this new species also belongs in sect. *Platyandrae*.

***Uncinia tenuifolia* G. Wheeler & Goetghebeur, sp. nov.**
Fig. 4, 6A

TYPE.—ECUADOR. Prov. Zamora-Chinchipe: road between Loja and Zamora, about 13 km E of the pass, just before junction with old road, 03° 58' S. lat., 79° 05' W. long., alt. ca. 2030 m, vertical dry cliff, 8 Mar 1989, Øllgaard et al. 90884 (holotype: AAU!; isotypes: GENT, K, MIN!, NY, QCA!).

Herbae dense caespitosae; culmi 7–21 cm alti; vaginae basales brunneae, glabrae. Folia 3–7, basilaria; laminae 4–17 cm longae, 0.6–1.5 mm latae; ligulae 0.4–0.8 mm longae. Spica solitaria, terminalis, androgyna, (7–)12–22 mm longa, 1.5–2 mm lata. Pars mascula 4.5–8 mm longa, 3–11-flora. Pars feminea 3–15-flora; squamae pistillatae persistentes, 2.5–3.4 mm longae, 1.2–2 mm latae, subcoriaceae, apice albo ciliolatae. Perigynia 2.5–3.3 mm longa, 0.8–1.2 mm lata, superne scabrido-hispidula, marginibus ciliolata. Achenium 1.8–2.2 mm longum, 0.9–1.1 mm latum; rachilla 5–7.6 mm longa, exserta pars (1.8–)2.5–4.6 mm longa, glabra. Stigmata 3. Antherae 3, 1–1.4 mm longae, ca. 0.2 mm latae; filamenta linearia dilatata, ca. 0.2 mm lata.

Plants densely caespitose. Fertile culms 7–21 cm tall, 0.3–0.5 mm thick, erect or slightly curved, from shorter than to exceeding the leaves, obscurely trigonous, smooth, with glabrous, brown basal sheaths. Leaves 3–7, basal; blades 4–17 cm long, 0.6–1.5 mm wide, more or less spreading, flat or channeled (especially in the proximal half), membranaceous, glabrous, the margins antrorsely scabrous distally, terminating in a long, scabrous attenuate tip; inner band of leaf sheaths hyaline or pale brown, glabrous, the apex concave; ligules 0.4–0.8 mm long, rounded. Inflorescence a solitary, androgynous spike, (7–)12–22 mm long, 1.5–2 mm wide, narrowly linear. Staminate part 4.5–8 mm long, 3–11-flowered; scales 2–2.8 mm long, 0.8–1.6 mm wide, obovate, obtuse to subacute, glabrous, brownish, 1(–3)-veined, the tips with hyaline margins

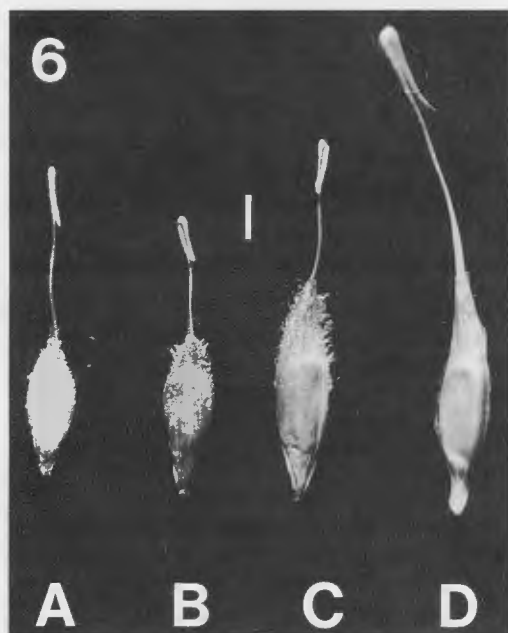


Fig. 6. Perigynia: dorsal view.—A. *Uncinia tenuifolia*, from Øllgaard *et al.* 90884 (MIN), isotype.—B. *Uncinia lacustris*, from Lægaard 51887 (MIN), isotype.—C. *Uncinia paludosa*, from Lægaard 71014 (MIN), isotype.—D. *Uncinia subsacculata*, from Lægaard 54469A (MIN), isotype. (Bar = 1 mm.)

and ciliolate. Pistillate part more or less tightly flowered with 3–15 perigynia; scales persistent, 2.5–3.4 mm long, 1.2–2 mm wide, from shorter than to about equaling the perigynia, oblong to obovate, obtuse to acute, subcoriaceous, glabrous, pale brown to brown, 5–7-veined, the tips with hyaline margins and ciliolate, the lowermost one infrequently with a scaberulent awn up to 9 mm long. Perigynia 2.5–3.3 mm long, 0.8–1.2 mm wide, elliptical, appressed hispid distally, smooth or sparsely hispid proximally, the margins ciliate from apex to near the base with the longest hairs distally, stramineous or brownish, 2 veins prominent and the rest faint, tapered to the base; perigynium beak conical, appressed hispid, the margins densely ciliate. Achenes 1.8–2.2 mm long, 0.9–1.1 mm wide, compressed-trigonous with slightly convex, oblong sides, tightly enveloped by the perigynium, brownish, sessile. Rachilla 5–7.6 mm long, projecting beyond orifice of perigynium, the exerted portion (1.8–)2.5–4.6 mm long, smooth, stramineous or pale brown, the hook 0.7–1.3 mm long and stramineous or brownish (particularly the descending part). Stigmas 3. Anthers 3, 1–1.4 mm long, ca. 0.2 mm wide; filaments linear, dilated (ca. 0.2 mm wide), as wide as or wider than the anthers.

Uncinia tenuifolia is known only from the type locality (Fig. 1), where it was collected on a precipitous cliff near a cave. Plants with mature fruit have been

collected in early March. The epithet refers to the narrow leaves of this species.

Unlike most South American *Uncinia*, plants of *U. tenuifolia* (Fig. 4) are short in stature, with filiform culms, and grow in dense cespitose clumps. This distinctive species is also readily identified by its small spikes and narrow leaves, and it should not be confused with any other *Uncinia*. Based on characteristics of its stamens and perigynia (Fig. 6A), *U. tenuifolia* belongs in sect. *Platyandrae*.

***Uncinia subsacculata* G. Wheeler & Goetghebeur, sp. nov.** Fig. 5, 6D

TYPE.—ECUADOR. Prov. Pichincha: N side of Volcán Pichincha above Hacienda Yanacocha, 00° 07' S. lat., 78° 34' W. long., alt. 3800 m, *Polylepis* forest, loose mats in shade, 4 Jun 1985, Lægaard 54469A (holotype: AAU!; isotypes: GENT, K, MIN!, NY, QCA!).

Herbae rhizomate repenti elongato; culmi 15–25 cm alti; vaginae basales brunneae, glabrae. Folia 7–9, plerumque basilaria; laminae 5–21 cm longae, (1.5–)2–3.4 mm latae; ligulae 1.5–2.5 mm longae. Spica solitaria, terminalis, androgyna, 2.5–4 cm longa, 2–3.5 mm lata. Pars mascula 6–8 mm longa, 7–11-flora. Pars feminea ca. 10–30-flora; squamae pistillatae deciduae, 4.2–6 mm longae, 0.8–1.6 mm latae, membranaceae, apice albo integrae, basi quarta parte valde saccata persistentes, parte superiore mox deciduae. Perigynia 4.8–5.6 mm longa, 0.9–1.2 mm lata, glabra. Achenium 2.4–2.6 mm longum, 0.8–1.1 mm latum; rachilla 8.5–10.2 mm longa, glabra, exserta pars 4.5–6 mm longa. Stigmata 3. Antherae 3, 1.3–1.8 mm longae, ca. 0.2 mm latae; filamenta filiformia non dilatata, ca. 0.1 mm lata.

Plants rhizomatous; rhizomes slender (0.7–1 mm thick), long-creeping, brownish. Fertile culms 15–25 cm tall, 0.7–1 mm thick, more or less erect, obscurely trigonous, smooth, with glabrous, pale brown to brown basal sheaths. Leaves 7–9, mostly basal; blades 5–21 cm long, (1.5–)2–3.4 mm wide, somewhat spreading, flat membranaceous, glabrous, the margins antrorsely scabrous distally, terminating in a scabrous attenuate tip; inner band of leaf sheaths hyaline, glabrous, the apex concave; ligules 1.5–2.5 mm long, subacute to acute. Inflorescence a solitary, androgynous spike, 2.5–4 cm long, 2–3.5 mm wide, linear or narrowly cylindric. Staminate part 6–8 mm long, 7–11-flowered; scales 3.5–4 mm long, 0.6–1.2 mm wide, lanceolate, subacute to acute, membranaceous, glabrous, green center with broad, hyaline margins and sometimes reddish brown-tinged distally, 1-veined, the tips entire. Pistillate part more or less tightly flowered, with ca. 10–30 perigynia; scales deciduous, but the basal one-fourth (or less) persisting as a conspicuous greenish or pale brown saccate structure less than 0.5 mm long, 4.2–6 mm long, 0.8–1.6 mm wide, from shorter than to about equaling the perigynia, membranaceous, lanceolate, subacute to acute, glabrous, green center with broad, hyaline margins and sometimes pale reddish brown-tinged distally, 1-veined, the tips entire, but the

lowermost one frequently with a scabrous-ciliate awn up to 2.5 cm long. Perigynia 4.8–5.6 mm long, 0.9–1.2 mm wide, fusiform, glabrous, the margins smooth, whitish green to pale greenish brown, 2 prominent veins and the rest faint, abruptly contracted to a stipitate base, the stipe 0.8–1.2 mm long; perigynium beak narrowly conical, 1.5–2 mm long, glabrous, the margins smooth. Achenes 2.4–2.6 mm long, 0.8–1.1 mm wide, compressed-trigonous with more or less concave, oblong sides, yellowish (immature). Rachilla 8.5–10.2 mm long, projecting beyond orifice of perigynium, the exerted portion 4.5–6 mm long, smooth, whitish green or pale greenish brown, the hook 1.8–2.2 mm long and stramineous or pale brown (particularly the descending part). Stigmas 3. Anthers 3, 1.3–1.8 mm long, ca. 0.2 mm wide, wider than the filiform filaments (ca. 0.1 mm wide).

Uncinia subsacculata is known only from the type locality (Fig. 1). Plants with well-developed perigynia (Fig. 6D) have been collected in early June. The epithet refers to the very short, persistent saccate bases of the deciduous scales.

This species (Fig. 5) resembles *Uncinia tenuis* Poeppig ex Kunth but differs by having longer perigynia, achenes, rachillae, anthers, and scales. Also, the perigynium beak of *U. subsacculata* is more narrowly conical and longer than the beak of *U. tenuis*. It is worthy of note that these two South American uncinias are readily identified by their distinctive inflorescences, which, when greatly (or entirely) divested of perigynia, display few to numerous saccate structures which

are the persistent portions of the otherwise deciduous scales. However, whereas in *U. tenuis* the proximal one-third of the scale persists as a conspicuous appendage (about 1 mm long), in *U. subsacculata* the saccate appendage is appreciably shorter (less than 0.5 mm long).

Unlike the other three species described above, *U. subsacculata* belongs in sect. *Uncinia*, i.e., the perigynia are glabrous and the staminal filaments are narrower than the anthers. Moreover, *U. subsacculata* has deciduous scales, whereas in members of sect. *Platyandrae* the scales are persistent.

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