

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

SELAGINELLA FUNIFORMIS, A NEW SPECIES IN THE
S. RUPESTRIS GROUP.

BY G. P. VAN ESELTINE.

Inasmuch as data concerning certain specimens that are included in this species are desired for immediate publication, it becomes necessary to publish a preliminary diagnosis. A more complete discussion will follow in a later paper.

Selaginella funiformis, new species.

Plants erect, caespitose, rigid, up to 12 cm. in height; rhizophores abundant at the base of shoots, sparse along the older portions of the stem; stems (including leaves) up to 1.2 mm. thick, rigid, sparsely branched at intervals of 7 to 10 mm.; primary branches few, 5 to 8 cm. long, these bearing few secondary branches (up to 20 mm. long); ultimate branchlets occurring throughout, up to 5 mm. long, simple, closely ascending; leaves 8 to 12 ranked, very closely appressed, imbricate, in the younger stages olive-green, in age becoming dull brown, thickish, chartaceous, slightly concave above, convex beneath, narrowly sulcate dorsally in a median line up to the acute apex, narrowly deltoid from a short broadly obdeltoid base, 6 to 10 ciliate on the margins, occasionally minutely 4 to 8 ciliate along the edges of the dorsal suture; longest leaves 1.25 mm. long, 0.4 mm. wide at the base; cilia 0.03 to 0.06 mm. long; setae white with a reddish base, scabrous, up to 1 mm. long; spikes nearly quadrangular, up to 15 mm. long, 1 mm. thick; sporophylls 1.5 mm. long, 0.8 mm. wide at the base, narrowly sulcate dorsally in a median line up to the acute apex, auriculate, minutely 10 to 20 ciliate on the margin, occasionally 4 to 8 ciliate on the edges of the dorsal suture near the base; auricles broadly obdeltoid, ciliate; cilia more minute and setae slightly shorter than on the stem leaves; megasporangia yellowish, 0.6 mm. in widest diameter; megasporos rugose on the commissural side, nearly smooth on the opposite side, 0.3 mm. in diameter; microsporangia 0.6 mm. in widest diameter, reniform, orange or brownish; microspores abundant, bright orange, 0.03 mm. in diameter.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium, No. 723,895, collected on "hillocks of loose sand in shade of scrubby oaks" near Carrabelle, Florida, March 15, 1898, by Charles Mohr.

Closely agreeing with the type are the following specimens, all from Florida:

"Chapman" (Biltmore distribution No. 3432b). Dry sandy ridges in the pine barrens, Carrabelle; A. M. Huger, Clearwater, January-February, 1902; Small, Carter, and Small, No. 3349, Fort Laudervale to Miami, February, 1911; Small and Carter, No. 1013, Fort Lauderdale, November 19 and 25, 1903; Small and Wilson, No. 1762, Fort Lauderdale, May 20, 1904.

This species is somewhat closely allied to the rather common *S. arenicola* of the southeastern states, but differs in having the megaspores somewhat rugose on the commissural side, a great number of ranks of leaves, and a shorter leaf base. It differs from other forms in the group in that the cilia of the dorsal suture are either very minute, or, more commonly, entirely lacking. Moreover, the stiff cordlike appearance of *S. funiformis* furnishes a striking character that easily distinguishes it from any of its allies.



Van Eseltine, G. P. 1917. "Selaginella jiinifonnis, a new species in the *S. rupestris* group." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 30, 161–162.

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