

Note on buffalo grass.—I read with interest an article by Mr. Plank on "*Buchloe dactyloides* Englm., not a dioecious grass."¹ He asserts that the grass in question is not dioecious, as usually described, but monoecious, and in support records observations made in Kansas.

Wishing to satisfy myself experimentally as to the correctness of this assertion, a few seeds were germinated in the greenhouse in the spring of 1893. A single seedling was transferred to an outdoor plat. This grew vigorously through the season, sending out stolons and forming a compact mat. During 1894 the mat became larger and denser, but no flowers appeared.

However, the plant flowered this season (1895). Both staminate and pistillate flowers were present, the former preponderating. The flowers arose mostly from nodes that had taken root and thus become essentially independent plants. In no case did I find the two kinds of flowers from the same node, but from the interwoven state of the stolons I was unable to determine whether the two kinds of flowers were borne upon independent stolons.

The plant was first described by Nuttall (Gen. 1: 65. 1818) from a staminate specimen, and named *Sesleria dactyloides*. He is evidently doubtful about the plant belonging to the genus *Sesleria*.

Rafinesque having occasion to review Nuttall's *Genera* (*Am. Monthly Mag.* 2: 190. 1819) makes a note regarding this plant: "18. *Sesleria dactyloides* must form a peculiar genus by Mr. N.'s own account. It may be called *Bulbilis*." It is upon this basis that Dr. Otto Kuntze establishes *Bulbilis dactyloides* (Nutt.) Raf. (Rev. Gen. Pl. 763).

Nuttall remarks in his description: "Root, after flowering, resembling a bulb," from which, doubtless, Rafinesque derives *Bulbilis*. Upon the margin of the copy of the *American Monthly Magazine* above quoted (in the library of the Missouri Botanical Garden), some one has suggested another derivation, "bull's bile!"—A. S. HITCHCOCK, *Kansas Agricultural College, Manhattan*.

¹Bull. Torr. Bot. Club. 19: 303. 1892.



Hitchcock, A. S. 1895. "Note on Buffalo Grass." *Botanical gazette* 20(10), 464–464. <https://doi.org/10.1086/327256>.

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