

**Bouteloua kayi, a New Grama Grass from
Trans-Pecos Texas**

*Barton H. Warnock*¹

BOUTELOUA kayi Warnock, sp. nov. Perennis caespitosa
ad 50 cm. alta culmis glabris. Foliorum laminae 1.0-1.5 mm.



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latae, ad 15 cm. longae, supra scabrellae, infra plerumque glabrae; ligula pilorum ca. 0.5 mm. longa. Inflorescentia cum spicis plerumque 15-20 subsessilibus adscendentibus. Spicae cum spiculis 18-20 sessilibus. Glumae 2.5-4 mm. longae mucronatae cum nervo medio scabro, prima brevior; lemma fertile 5-7 mm. longum (aristis 3 patentibus inclusis); palea in aristas 2 ca. 2 mm. longas mutata; flos sterilis in aristas 3 lemma fertile aequantes mutatus.

Tufted perennial; stems erect, 10-50 cm. tall, with glabrous nodes. Leaves numerous, chiefly basal; blades involute, scabrellous above, mostly glabrous below, 1.0-1.5 mm. wide, up to 20 cm. long; ligule a fringe of hairs about 0.5 mm. long. Spikes usually 15-20, subsessile, ascending, with zigzag rachis 2-3 cm. long, the upper ones shorter and more crowded. Spikelets mostly 18-20 per spike, sessile. Glumes glabrous, mucronate, 2.5-4 mm. long, with scabrous midnerve; first shorter than the second. Fertile lemma 5-7 mm. long, including 3 spreading awns; palea reduced to two awns about 2 mm. long. Rudimentary floret consisting of 3 prominent awns as long as the fertile lemma. TYPE: infrequent perennial in limestone crevices on lower portion of Maravillas Creek, Overton Ranch, southern Brewster Co., Texas, elev. 2200 ft., *Lamar Kay*, August 4, 1954 (in Herb. Sul Ross State College; isotype, S.M.U.; additional material being distributed).

This grama is known only from mountainous terrain on limestone, along the Rio Grande in southwestern Brewster County. It undoubtedly occurs across the Rio Grande in the states of Coahuila and Chihuahua, Mexico. It is named for Mr. Lamar Kay, Soil Conservation Service, Alpine, Texas, who has made definite contributions to our knowledge of the flora of the Trans-Pecos. The author is greatly indebted to Dr. Lloyd H. Shinnars for the Latin diagnosis, and to Mr. Bill Leftwich of Alpine, Texas, for the detailed drawings of the plant.