Semaphore Grass: Differentiating Between *Pleuroggon hooverianus* and *P. davyi*
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During my effort to upgrade the listing of Hoover’s Semaphore Grass I discovered 2 new characteristics that can help identify *P. hooverianus* from *P. davyi*. I sent this information to Mary Barkworth who will soon be publishing “The Manual of Grasses of N. America and Canada”. She in turn forwarded these I.D. characteristics to Paul But in China, who did his PhD on Semaphore grass in 1979. Confusion can occur because there sometimes appears to be overlap in the length of the awns. Examination of specimens from many locations showed the following characteristics to be consistent:

1) On *P. hooverianus* the awns are longer at the bottom of the spikelet and shorter at the tip of the spikelet. Vice versa on *P. davyi* in cases where awns are present, which does happen some years. A memory aid I’ve found useful is that the name Hoover is like Hoover Dam which is wide at the base and narrow at the top.

2) The base of the stem (actually basal leaf sheaths) of *P. hooverianus* is magenta colored, especially so when young. Both *P. davyi* and *P. californicus* are cream to yellowish green at the base.