




## *Gelasine aureistaminata* (Iridaceae: Tigridieae), a new species from the Cerros Chatos formations in Uruguay and Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil

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**Abstract.** *Gelasine aureistaminata* (Iridaceae: Tigridieae), a new species from the Cerros Chatos formations in Uruguay and Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil.

A new species of *Gelasine*, named *Gelasine aureistaminata*, is described and illustrated for the flora of Uruguay and Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil), constituting yet another endemic species for the region of the Campos, of the Grassland Ecosystems of Southeastern South America. Specimens grow in crevices of silicified sandstone rocks, in full sun, associated with small herbs or shrubs, on the tops and steep slopes of hills locally known as <Cerros Chatos>. *Gelasine aureistaminata* is close related with *G. elongata*; however, can be distinguished by its narrower basal and caulinar leaves, by its smaller anthers, with whitish-yellow connective and ochre-yellow thecae, and bright-yellow pollen and shorter style with shorter style branches. The species is considered Endangered, following the criteria of IUCN.

Key words: Artigas, Campos, Rivera, Santana do Livramento, Taxonomy.

**Resumen.** *Gelasine aureistaminata* (Iridaceae: Tigridieae), una nueva especie de los Cerros Chatos en Uruguay y Río Grande del Sur, Brasil.

Se describe e ilustra una nueva especie de *Gelasine*, denominada *Gelasine aureistaminata*, para la flora de Uruguay y Rio Grande del Sur (Brasil), constituyendo otra especie endémica de la región de los Campos, de los Ecosistemas de Pastizales del Sudeste de Sudamérica. Los especímenes crecen en grietas de rocas areniscas silicificadas, a pleno sol, asociados con pequeñas hierbas o arbustos, en las cimas y laderas empinadas de los cerros conocidos localmente como <Cerros Chatos>. *Gelasine aureistaminata* está estrechamente relacionada con *G. elongata*; sin embargo, se puede distinguir por sus hojas basales y caulinares más estrechas, por sus anteras más pequeñas, con conectivas de color amarillo blanquecino y tecas de color amarillo ocre, y polen amarillo brillante y estilo más corto con ramas del estilo más cortas. La especie se considera En Peligro, según los criterios de la UICN.

Palabras clave: Artigas, Campos, Rivera, Santana do Livramento, Taxonomía.

*Gelasine* Herbert (1840: pl. 3779) is a small South American genus composed of eight species, seven of which are distributed in <Campos> and <Cerrados> in central-eastern South America, grow from sea level to over 1,000m in altitude, while *Gelasine goodspeediana* (Foster) Celis & Goldblatt grows at over 3,000 m altitude in mountainous areas in the Cochabamba Department, Bolivia. Herbert (1840) recognized six species for the genus, after these taxa were transferred to other taxa or synonymized, and *Gelasine azurea* was the only species recognized as valid until the 1960s, when *G. rigida* was described (Ravenna 1965). In other contributions, Ravenna (1977, 1984) establishes taxonomic adjustments and the limits of the genus, describing a new species for

Uruguay. Later, Ravenna identified in *Ferraria elongata* Graham the same species proposed by Herbert as *G. azurea* and made the necessary new combination and established the new synonyms (Ravenna 1988). Subsequently, new records and taxa were added to the Brazilian flora (Ravenna 2005, Bonfada-Rodrigues et al. 2014).

The <Campos> ecoregion is part of a set of predominantly grassland ecosystems known as <Pastizales del Sureste de América del Sur> (SESA Grasslands, from the English acronym of Southeast South American Grasslands, sensu Di Giacomo & Krapovickas 2005, Azpiroz et al. 2012), which comprises the most extensive grassland area in South America, with approximately 1,000,000 km<sup>2</sup>, forming an arc around the Plata basin, and

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covering the east and northeast of Argentina, central and southern Paraguay, southern Brazil and all Uruguayan territory, and includes four regions: <Pampas>, <Campos> <Campos de Altitude> and the <Chaco húmedo> (Deble 2022, Deble et al. 2025). The <Campos> ecoregion comprises in approximate lines the <Uruguayense> district of the <Pampeana> fitogeographic province of Cabrera & Willink (1980), and comprises important hotspot of biodiversity and endemism, with more than 12,500 species reported only for the Brazilian <Campos> (Andrade *et al.* 2018, Andrade *et al.* 2023). *Gelasine* is well represented in this ecoregion, with the occurrence of the following taxa: *G. caerulea* (Vellozo) Ravenna, *G. elongata* (Graham) Ravenna, *G. paranaënsis* Ravenna and *G. uruguaiensis* Ravenna (with two subspecies: *uruguaiensis* and *orientalis* Ravenna) (Deble 2022).

In a portion within the <Campos> region, the flat-top hills, known locally as <Cerros Chatos> represent one of the most peculiar landscapes of the region occurring in Rivera and Tacuarembó departments, northwestern Uruguay and southwestern Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil. These are elevations of approximately 300 m above sea level, rising between 100 m and 150 m from ground level. These formations are composed of Jurassic sandstones with rocky outcrops of varying height and a concave or stepped slope (Pañella et al. 2023). In their upper layers, this sandstone has undergone a silicification process that makes it particularly hard, resisting surrounding erosion and leaving a well-defined flat top (Chebataroff & Zavala 1975). The <Cerros Chatos> have a high diversity of taxa, including various species of shrubs and trees (Grela & Brussa 2005), as well as herbaceous plants, including many endemic taxa (Pañella et al. 2023).

In this work, is described and illustrated a new species of *Gelasine*, occurring in the ecoregion of <Campos> of the <Pastizales del Sureste de América del Sur> , growing exclusively on the tops and slopes of <Cerros Chatos>, in Rivera department, northwestern Uruguay and in the municipality of Santana do Livramento, southwestern Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil.

## Material and Methods

The research was carried out by field surveys, and analysis of herbarium specimens, including digital images. The morphological data mentioned

in the text and the terminology used follow Ravenna (1984), Goldblatt & Manning (2008), and Beentje (2010). The acronyms for herbaria mentioned in the text follow Thiers (2025+). The description of the taxa is based on morphological characteristics of plants observed in natural habitat, cultivated specimens and on dry material. For the conservation status of the studied species, the method of Bachman et al. (2011) was applied through the GeoCAT platform, which consists of inserting the occurrence points of the species individually. The software considers the number of populations and the distance between them to calculate the extension of occurrence and the area of occupancy. For the preparation of the drawing of Figure 1 was used watercolor on Bristol paper, and the illustration was performed on cultivated specimen of *Gelasine aureistaminata*. For the elaboration of Figure 2 and 4 were used photographs of environments, specimens in nature or in cultivation and the boards were edited in the Adobe photoshop program, version 23.x. For the elaboration of figures 3, the base map used is titled <National Geographic World Map>. The software ArcMap version 10.7 was utilized, and the features were created from the base titled Topographic.

## Taxonomic treatment

*Gelasine aureistaminata* Deble, sp. nova

Typus: BRAZIL. Rio Grande do Sul: Santana do Livramento, localidade de Palomas, no topo do cerro Palomas, 21 October 2025, L.P. Deble & B. Pinheiro Moreira 23028 (holotypus: ICN! isotypus: ICN!). Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4.

[urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77375146-1](https://urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77375146-1)

*Gelasine aureistaminata* differs from *G. elongata* by its narrower basal and caulinar leaves (6–14 mm vs. 9–21 mm wide), smaller anthers (5.5–7 × 1–1.5 mm vs. 7.5–9 × 1–1.5 mm), with whitish-yellow connective (vs. lilac-blue), ochre-yellow thecae (vs. violet-blue), and bright-yellow pollen (vs. white or grayish-white), and shorter style (8–10.5 mm vs. 12.5–14 mm), with shorter style branches (1.3–1.9 mm vs. 2.6–3.5 mm).

*Description*—Herb 25–60 cm tall, underground stems up to 10 cm long. Roots fasciculate, straw-colored, thin. Bulb ovoid, 30–45 × 15–25 mm, prolonged in a collar formed from the accumulation of old cataphylls, quite folded or spiraled; cataphylls bright, reddish-brown or reddish-orange, smooth, the older ones with grooves, broadly ovate-lanceolate, darker, apex long acuminate.

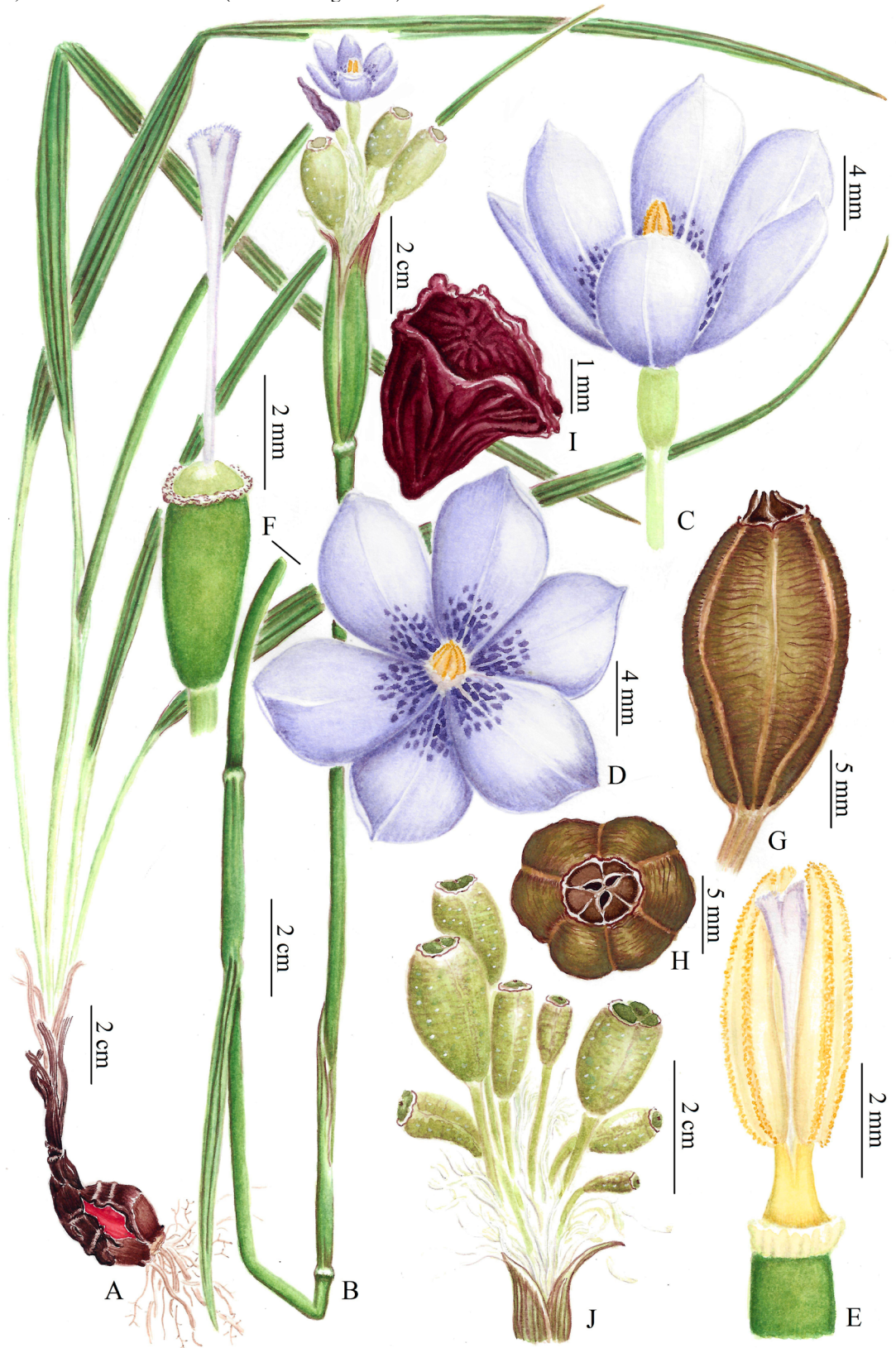


Figure 1. *Gelasine aureistaminata*. A, Basal part of the plant. B, flowering branch. C, Flower, lateral view. D, Flower, upper view. E, Flower with tepals removed. F, Gynoecium. G, Capsule. H, Capsule, upper view. I, Seed. J, Apex of a spathe in fruiting.



Figure 2. *Gelasine aureistaminata*. A, Plant. B, Bulb. C, Flower, upper view. D, Flower, inclined view. E and F, Androgynocium, in two different views. G and H, Gynocium, in two different views. I, Capsule. J, Capsule, upper view. K, Seeds. L, Detail of stigmatic region of style branch.

Basal leaves at anthesis 2–5, 33–64 cm long; blades bluish-green, linear-elliptic or linear-lanceolate, 15–39 × 0.6–1.4 cm; leaf-sheath 7–25 cm × 0.2–0.3 cm, at the base involving the stem, then the distal 2/3 are free and become convoluted, resembling a terete petiole. The most basal cauline leaf in the proximal third of the stem, 17–41 cm long; blades linear-elliptic or linear-lanceolate, ensiform, 11–26 × 0.8–1.4 cm, base obtuse, apex acuminate; leaf-sheath 6–12 cm × 0.3–0.5 cm, with 3/4 of total length involving the stem; the upper leaves gradually smaller the most distal bractiform, plicate, lanceolate, 4–7 × 0.4–0.5 cm, at the base sheathing the basal part of peduncles. Flowering stems 20–45 cm long, unbranched. Spathes solitary, 39–52 × 6–9 mm, herbaceous, pallid bluish-green, bivalved, 4–12-flowered, pedunculate, peduncles 11–23 cm long; outer valve 30–42 mm long, obtuse-apiculate at the top; the inner 39–52 mm long, obtuse or truncate apiculate at the top, brownish at the edges, covered with darker parallel strips; pedicel filiform, 42–65 mm long, with a pallid-green or brownish-green straight or slightly curved bract. Flower buds fusiform, 11–14 mm long. Flowers 18–25 mm diameter. Perigone campanulate to

broadly cupulate, lilac, lilac-blue or violet-blue. Tepal whorls subequal, spreading in an ascendant angle (angle between 45° and 60° degrees). Outer tepals oblanceolate or elliptic, 10–14 × 6–7 mm, lilac, lilac-blue or violet-blue, proximal third of the same color or with violet dots, becoming faded towards the base. Inner tepals oblanceolate, 12–15 × 6–8 mm, lilac, lilac-blue or violet-blue, proximal third of the same color or with violet dots, becoming faded towards the base. Filaments adnate in a conic column, 2–2.5 long, 1.4–1.7 mm wide at the base and 1–1.1 mm long distally, slightly translucent, bright greenish-yellow. Anthers linear-lanceolate 5.5–7 × 1–1.5 mm; connective whitish-yellow, ca. 0.5–0.9 mm, thecae ochre-yellow, pollen brightgolden-yellow. Ovary oblong, 5.5–6.5 × 2.1–2.5 mm, slightly angled. Style (including style branches) 8–10.5 mm long. Style branches erect or slightly porrect, lilac or violet, faded towards the base, 1.3–1.9 mm long, adnate for ca. of half the length, ending in a semispherical stigmatic portion. Capsule broadly oblong or obovate-oblong, 12–24 × 8–13 mm. Seeds compressed, conic or nearly triangular, 4–5.5 × 3.5–5 mm, bronze-color, thickened in the margin, epidermis slightly folded.

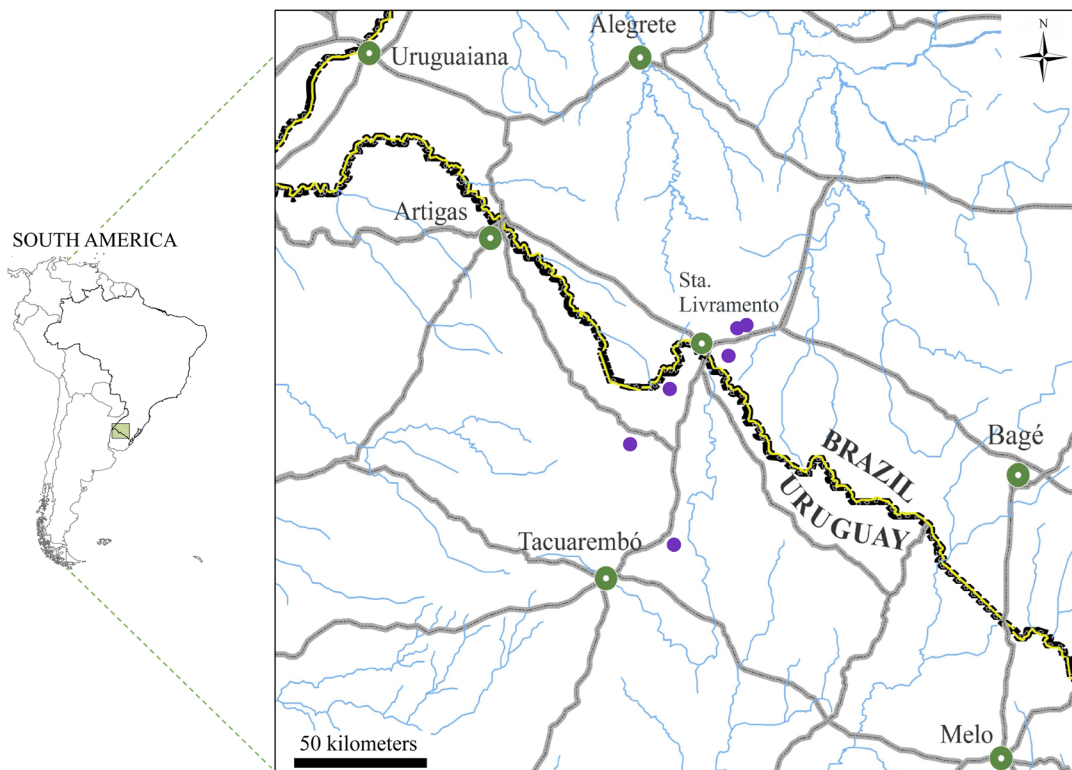


Figure 3. Map of geographic distribution of *Gelasine aureistaminata* (purple dots).

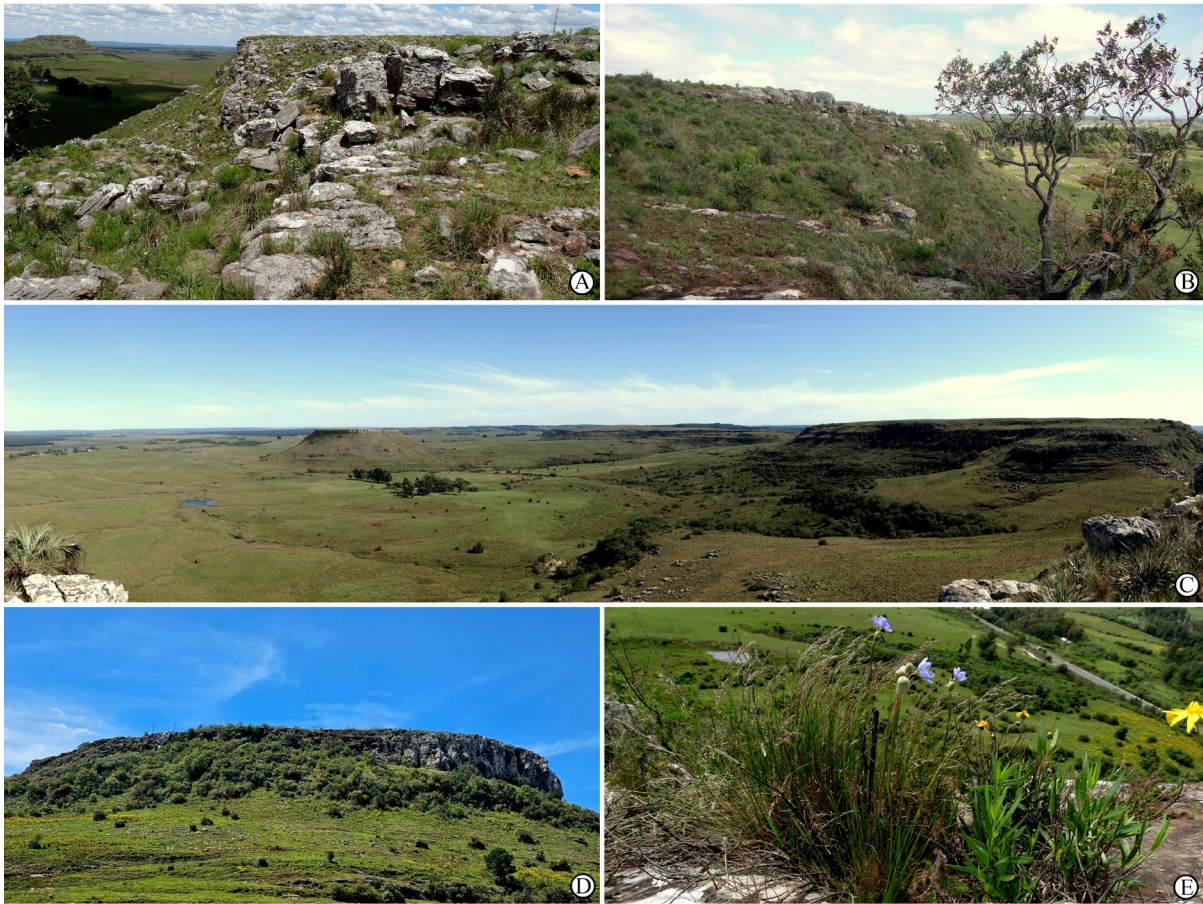


Figure 4. Different landscapes of <Cerros Chatos> in northern Uruguay and southern Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil. A, Cerro Vigilante, Rivera, Uruguay. B, Cerro Dos Muñoz, Santana do Livramento, Brazil. C, View of the landscape from the top of the Cerro Miriñaque, Rivera, Uruguay. D, Cerro Palomas, Santana do Livramento, Brazil. E, Population of *Gelasine aureistaminata* blossom at top of Cerro Palomas, Santana do Livramento, Brazil.

*Etymology*—From the Latin adjective *aureis* (= yellow, gold) + substantive *staminata* (= stamen), alluding to the yellow color of the stamens, one of the distinguishing characteristics from *Gelasine elongata*.

*Vernacular names and uses*—Unknown.

*Additional specimens examined (Paratype)*—BRAZIL. Rio Grande do Sul: Santana do Livramento, cerro dos Muñoz, no topo do cerro, 11 October 2012, L.P. Deble, F.S. Alves et J.N.C. Marchiori 13013 (PACA). Santana do Livramento, Cerro Palomas, no topo do Cerro, 30 November 2024, T. Schröder, B. de Souza & F. Fernandes 501 (ICN00062491!). URUGUAY. Rivera, Sierra de Aurora, Cerro de Aurora, bosque de quebrada, 8 December 1994, S. Grun, D. Bayce & E. Rabaïotti s.n. (MVFA24592!). Arroyo Rubio Chico en Paredón, 15 November 1996, I. Grela & F. Romero s.n. (MVFA26297!). Minas de Corrales, Miriñaque, en la encosta norte, 4 October 2018, L.P. Deble et al. 17309 (ICN).

*Comments*—The Uruguayan botanist Pablo Berazategui indicated the occurrence of *Gelasine aureistaminata* in east of Artigas (comm. Pers., November 2022).

*Phenology*—*Gelasine aureistaminata* flowers from early September to late October and produces seeds from October to December. The flowers open only once, early in the morning (around 7 am) and wither around 10 am. On cloudy and colder days, they may remain open until late morning.

*Distribution and Habitat*—*Gelasine aureistaminata* occurs in Artigas and Rivera departments, in northwestern Uruguay, and in the municipality of Santana do Livramento, in southwestern Rio Grande do Sul state (Brazil), in an extent of occurrence (EOO) of 856 km<sup>2</sup> and area of occupancy (AOO) of 24 km<sup>2</sup>. Specimens grow in

crevices of silicified sandstone rocks, in full sun, associated with small herbs or shrubs, on the tops and steep slopes of hills locally known as <Cerros Chatos>. In these environments, it is sympatric with several rare and endemic taxa, such as the daisies *Achyrocline Marchiorii* Deble, *Asteropsis megapotamica* (Spreng.) Marchesi, Bonif. & G. Sancho, *Hysterionica chamomilloides* Deble, and *Vernonanthura pseudolinearifolia* (Hieron.) A.J. Vega & M. Dematt., the bromeliad *Dyckia vicentensis* Strehl, the cacti *Notocactus* spp. and *Wigginsia corynodes* (Pfeiff.) D.M. Porter, the grass *Aristida constricta* Longhi-Wagner, and the petunia *Calibrachoa pubescens* (Spreng.) Stehmann (Solanaceae). In addition to some small trees and shrubs as *Baccharis vernicosa* Hook. & Arn., *Heterothalamus psiadioides* Less. (Asteraceae), *Butia* sp (Arecaceae), *Agarista chlorantha* G. Don and *A. eucaliptoides* G. Don (Ericaceae), and *Mimosa* sp. (Fabaceae). Other sympatric taxa are the following *Dimerostemma Grisebachii* (Baker) M.D. Moraes (Asteraceae), *Piptochaetium stipoides* (Trin. & Rupr.) Hack. ex Arechav. (Poaceae) and the Caryophyllaceae *Cerastium dicotrichum* Fenzl ex Rohrb..

*Conservation status*—*Gelasine aureistaminata* has an extent of occurrence (EOO) of 856 km<sup>2</sup> and area of occupancy (AOO) of 24 km<sup>2</sup>. The populations are isolated on summit of hills, where they grow exclusively in crevices of silicified sandstone in full sun or associated with shrubs. These environments are being modified by silviculture, introduction of invasive species, and human activity. Thus, based on the current geographic distribution, the number of known populations, and the pressure these populations suffer, the species can be considered Endangered (EN) according the following criteria: B1+ D (IUCN 2012, IUCN 2024).

*Discussion*—*Gelasine aureistaminata* is morphologically close to *G. elongata*, but can be distinguished from this species by its narrower basal and caulinar leaves (6–14 mm vs. 9–21 mm wide), smaller anthers (5.5–7 × 1–1.5 mm vs. 7.5–9 × 1–1.5 mm), with whitish-yellow connective (vs. lilac-blue), ochre-yellow thecae (vs. violet-blue), and bright-yellow pollen (vs. white or grayish-white), and shorter style (8–10.5 mm vs. 12.5–14 mm), with shorter style branches (1.3–1.9 mm vs. 2.6–3.5 mm). *Gelasine aureistaminata*

can be confused with *Gelasine uruguayensis* ssp. *orientalis* due to the color pattern of its tepals and the size and color of its stamens. However, *Gelasine aureistaminata* is easily distinguished by its style, which is equal in length to or shorter than the stamens, and by the terminal stigmatic region. *Gelasine uruguayensis* ssp. *orientalis*, on the other hand, has a style that is 2–3 mm longer than the stamens, and the stigmatic area is perpendicular, typical of the group of species allied to *Gelasine caerulea* (Vellozo) Ravenna (unnamed <Sphenostigma group>, Deble, in prep).

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### Declaration of conflicts of interest/competing Interests

The author declares that he has no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to undermine the objectivity or integrity of the work reported in this paper.

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