

Oryza sativa L. (“f. *spontanea* Roshev.”)

N RK: Ukraine, the Crimea: Krasnoperekopsky region, W of Ishun’ town (45°54'59"N, 33°44'35"E), rice fields, 0 m, 11.7.2010, Yena (CSAU). – Weedy rice, so called “red rice”, has been self-propagating in the Crimea since the beginning of local rice cultivation in the 1960s and has spread widely since, even though its occurrence has never been reported. Plants of weedy rice can be distinguished from cultivated rice by taller stems, longer awns, red, violet or white coloured, drooping panicles, earlier flowering time (within July), shed caryopses and frost-resistant seeds. The taxonomic identity of Crimean weedy rice is still uncertain, but it is certainly not *Oryza rufipogon*, under which name it is reported for the region in Euro+Med PlantBase (Valdés & Scholz 2009). *O. rufipogon* is easily recognised at least by anther size (twice as long as in any other weedy, including Crimean, rice taxon). According to the monographer (Duistermaat 1987), *O. rufipogon* is taxonomically distant from *O. sativa* and its weedy derivatives, not a synonym of the latter as claimed by Valdés & al. (2009). To some extent, Crimean weedy rice morphologically resembles *O. nivara* Sharma & Shastry, but recent phylogenetic studies (Olsen & al. 2007) show that weedy rice rather derives from a number of genetically heterogeneous cultivars of *O. sativa*. According to current knowledge, the appropriate name and rank for Crimean weedy rice seems to be *O. sativa* f. *spontanea* (Roževic 1931).

A. V. Yena