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POTENTIAL SEEDLING EMERGENCE OF TWO SPONTANEOUS POPULATIONS OF *Stapfochloa berroi* FROM LA PAMPA DEPRIMIDA

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Stapfochloa berroi (Sb) is a key warm-season native perennial grass species in the halophyte steppes of *la Pampa Deprimida* (BA) due to its forage value and adaptation to these environments. Incorporating the selected germplasm of this species would be useful for cattle raising and grassland biodiversity to analyze variability in the potential of the percentage and speed of emergence in seedlings of two spontaneous populations of Sb from halophyte steppes of *la Pampa Deprimida*. On October 10, 2019, 2 seeds per cell from the collected populations (P1 y P2) in Magdalena and Punta Indio (BA), respectively, and were sown in trays of 30 cells (180 cm³) with Argiudoll soil as substrate (2 populations x 100 cells x 2 seeds = 400 seeds) in a CRD (N = 10; experimental unit = ten cells with 20 seeds) in a greenhouse. The seedling emergence (apex of the 1st visible leaf on the surface) and its register started three days after sowing, and it continued every three days for one month. The speed (VE) and the percentage of accumulated emergence (E) were determined. The $VE = E1/T1 + E2/T2 + \dots + Gn/Tn$, where E: emerged seedlings; T: day of emergence; n: last day of emergence control. Respectively, intra-population and inter-population variability were analyzed employing the average, s, range, and %CV parameters, and Student's *t*-test ($P \leq 0.05$). The VE was greater in P1 than P2 but similar to E. Intra population variability was found (%CV: E: P1=15.8, P2=12.4; VE: P1=19.3, P2=27). Both populations showed positive significant correlations ($P \leq 0.05$) between E and VE. Variability found in Sb populations would be promissory for selection in this first stage of the implantation phase breeding.