



ACRACHNE RACEMOSA

A tufted annual of variable habit up to 1 m in height. *Culms* several, sometimes single, usually arising from the base or the lower nodes, ranging from weak to fairly strong, smooth and hairless. *Nodes* 4–5, smooth, hairless, sometimes dark-pigmented. *Leaves* bright green, mostly on the culms. *Leaf sheaths* loose, smooth, hairless, striate, flattened and keeled in the lower part, much shorter than the internodes. *Ligule* a 1 mm membranous rim with a ragged margin. *Leaf blades* flat, though folded towards the base, with scattered long, white, tubercle-based hairs; otherwise smooth, but rough down the margins, 3–12 mm wide and up to 25 cm long, gradually tapering to a fine point.

Inflorescence light green, maturing to straw-coloured, 5–20 cm long and up to 15 cm wide, of 7–20 simple or sometimes secondarily branched spike-like racemes arranged subdigitately, singly below or in whorls of 2, 3 or more above, the racemes usually sessile, 4–10 cm long, but sometimes bare of spikelets in the lower half. *Spikelets* (S) almost sessile, 4–10 mm long, closely and evenly arranged on one side of the rachis, laterally compressed, all similar, at maturity falling entire, or lemma and caryopsis falling, leaving the persistent paleas. *Florets* 8–15, more or less similar, bisexual, though the upper ones may be smaller and sterile. *Glumes* (G_1 , G_2) very much shorter than the spikelet, unequal, strongly keeled, 1-nerved, scabrid along the keel; the lower glume (G_1) 2 mm long, sharply pointed; the upper (G_2) 3 mm long, including the short awn. *Lemmas* (L) all similar, 3 mm long, distinctly 3-nerved, the lateral nerves produced to form distinct shoulders on either side of the shortly awned tip. *Paleas* (P) 2 mm, strongly 2-keeled and 2-nerved, persistent. *Anthers* 3, 0.5 mm, cream. *Grain* distinctively dark red, ridged and textured on the surface, concave, 1 mm long.

This pan-tropical grass is found sporadically in the northern part of the zone on disturbed sandy soils of river frontages in open woodland country, where it may be locally abundant.

REFERENCES

Bor (1960), p. 484; Chippindall and Crook (1976), pt 41.

KEY TO SPECIES

This is the only species occurring in Australia.