



# ANCISTRACHNE UNCINULATA

## Hooky Grass

A rather shrubby perennial, sometimes growing to 2 m tall, erect or spreading. *Culms* woody, striate, slightly rough, often considerably branched at the nodes. *Nodes* prominent, without hairs, numerous. *Leaves* mostly on the culm, often reduced to scale-like structures. *Leaf sheaths* loose, not usually enclosing the culm in the lower part, striate, hairless, smooth, the internodes greatly exceeding the leaf sheaths. *Ligule* a dense band of short hairs. *Leaf blades* flat, 1.5–4 mm wide, 1–6 cm long, narrowing from the base to a point, standing out at right angles to the culm, rigid, mostly without hairs, slightly rough on the upper surface.

*Inflorescence* a narrow panicle, 2–14 cm long, 1–6 cm wide, the main axis flattened, panicle branches not numerous and spikelets few and sessile on the branches. *Spikelets* (S) 4.5–5 mm long, set obliquely on the branches. *Florets* 2, dissimilar, the lower neuter and reduced to only the lower lemma, the upper bisexual. *Glumes* (G<sub>1</sub>, G<sub>2</sub>) very unequal; the lower glume (G<sub>1</sub>) less than ½ the length of the spikelet, triangular, 3–5-nerved, without hairs; the upper (G<sub>2</sub>) the length of the spikelet, 7–11-nerved, covered on the back with hooked, tubercle-based spines. *Lemma* (L<sub>1</sub>) of the lower sterile floret similar to G<sub>2</sub>, with 7–11 nerves and more densely covered on the back, with hooked, tubercle-based spines. *Palea* absent. *Lemma* (L<sub>2</sub>) of the upper fertile floret smooth, tough, 7-nerved, rounded and partly enclosing the palea, slightly shorter than L<sub>1</sub>. *Palea* (P<sub>2</sub>) smooth and thickened like L<sub>2</sub>, 2-nerved, slightly shorter than L<sub>2</sub>. *Anthers* 3, about 2 mm long.

In spite of its rather woody appearance, this grass is freely eaten by stock. It is commonly found in the drier regions in the low, open forest communities, particularly the dry brigalow and belah scrubs, occasionally nearer the coast in isolated sites.

### REFERENCES

Bailey (1902), p. 1828 (as *Panicum uncinulatum*); Blake (1941b), pp. 4-7; Vickery (1961), p. 75.

### KEY TO SPECIES

One species only occurs in southern Queensland.