



# ARUNDINELLA NEPALENSIS

## Reed Grass

An erect, reedy perennial, up to 2 m tall. *Culms* arising from stout, short, scaly rhizomes, often, but not always, tufted, erect, stout and reedy, often branched at the nodes, smooth and hairless. *Nodes* distinct, very finely hairy. *Leaves* mostly on the culms. *Leaf sheaths* becoming loose on the stems towards the base, the very basal ones reduced and scale-like, smooth and hairless, usually slightly shorter than the internodes. *Ligule* reduced to a short rim of hairs with a few longer ones on the lateral extremities. *Leaf blades* flat, long (up to 30–40 cm), broad (up to 8 mm), rather coarse, without hairs, but downwardly rough to the touch along the margins.

*Inflorescence* a fairly open panicle at maturity, narrowly pyramidal, up to 40 cm long, the axis rigid and angular, openly and loosely branched, the branches divided from the base, singly or in clusters of few to several, distinctly separated along the axis, the branches up to 12 cm long, rough downwardly to the touch. *Spikelets* (S) numerous and borne singly along the branches on thick, angular pedicels 1–3 mm long, at first breaking up above the glumes. *Florets* 2, the lower male, often with rudimentary stigmas, which are purple, the upper bisexual. *Glumes* ( $G_1$ ,  $G_2$ ) unequal; the lower glume ( $G_1$ ) 4 mm long, prominently 3-nerved with a row of spines along the backs of the nerves, fairly narrow and tapering to a long acute point; the upper ( $G_2$ ) 4.5 mm, without spines on the back, 5-nerved, somewhat broader at the base, also tapering to an acute point. *Lemma* ( $L_1$ ) of the lower floret faintly 5-nerved, each of the two lateral nerves closely paired, not as rigid as  $G_2$ , 4.5 mm long. *Palea* ( $P_1$ ) membranous, shorter than  $L_1$ , 2-nerved and strongly 2-keeled, usually enclosing anthers. *Anthers*, when present, 3, 0.5 mm long. *Lemma* ( $L_2$ ) of the upper fertile floret about 2.5 mm long, rounded, partly enclosing the palea, faintly 3-nerved, membranous, the tip slightly 2-pointed, bearded at the base with a distinct rim of white, silky hairs, the central nerve extended into a twisted awn up to 4 mm long. *Palea* ( $P_2$ ) equal to  $L_2$ , 2-nerved and distinctly 2-keeled with 2 lateral flaps in the lower part. *Anthers* 3, 0.5 mm long.

The grass is common throughout the forest country of southeast Queensland and is often associated with slightly damper sites near streams or in hollows or shallow slopes where drainage might be impeded. It is of little forage value.

### REFERENCES

Bailey (1902),<sup>1</sup> p. 1838; Blake (1941a),<sup>2</sup> pp. 16-18; Gardner (1952),<sup>3</sup> pp. 223-24; Beadle *et al.* (1972),<sup>4</sup> p. 662; Vickery (1975),<sup>5</sup> pp. 271-73; Simon (1982)<sup>6</sup>.

### KEY TO SPECIES

1. Leaves less than 2 mm wide and 7 cm long; inflorescence less than 7 cm long. Rare. *A. grevillensis*<sup>6</sup>  
Leaves 2–8 mm wide, up to 40 cm long; inflorescence 7–40 cm long. 2
2. Erect, tufted or diffuse grass, often 1 m or more tall; culms arising from short, scaly rhizomes. Widespread (reed grass) *A. nepalensis*<sup>1,3,4,5</sup>  
Shorter tufted grass, leaves fine; not obviously scaly-rhizomatous at base. Restricted to rock crevices of mountains of southeast Queensland (mountain reed grass) *A. montana*<sup>1,2</sup>