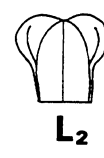


**X5.6**



## AUSTROCHLORIS DICHANTHIOIDES

A tufted perennial, 50–100 cm tall. *Culms* erect, smooth, branching and leafy from the lower nodes. *Nodes* usually 4–7, the internodes shorter near the base with the uppermost one in flowering shoots, very long, flexuous and sometimes purplish. *Leaves* mostly on the culms. *Leaf sheaths* keeled, somewhat overlapping, smooth, slightly striate, usually longer than the lower internodes. *Ligule* a rim of hairs about 0.5 mm long. *Leaf blades* slightly keeled at the base, becoming flat, narrowing towards the tip from the lower part, about 3 mm wide and up to 12 cm long.

*Inflorescence* a digitate panicle usually of 2, rarely 3, racemes, 6–12 cm long, borne clear of the foliage on the long terminal internode. *Spikelets* (S) solitary, flattened on the back, slightly overlapping in two rows along the rhachis of the raceme, 4.5–5 mm long, falling entire at maturity. *Florets* 2, the lower bisexual, the upper neuter and reduced to a lemma. *Glumes* ( $G_1$ ,  $G_2$ ) slightly unequal, longer than the florets, membranous, smooth and narrow; the lower glume ( $G_1$ ) 1-nerved, tapering gradually to a point; the upper glume ( $G_2$ ) 3-nerved, slightly longer than  $G_1$  and broader in the upper  $\frac{1}{2}$  below the point. *Lemma* ( $L_1$ ) of the lower fertile floret about 2.5 mm long, 3-nerved, broad and flat on the back, long silky-hairy on the margins of the upper part and shortly hairy on the mid-nerve in the lower part, the tip produced into a stiff awn 1.5–3 mm long. *Palea* ( $P_1$ ) almost the length and breadth of  $L_1$ , 2-nerved, with the nerves close to the slightly keeled margins, membranous between the nerves. *Lemma* ( $L_2$ ) of the upper floret 1-nerved, 1.3 mm long, broadly inflated towards the apex. *Palea* absent. *Anthers* 3, 0.5 mm long.

This grass is not widespread and is restricted to the dry western region of Queensland. It usually is found in flat or shallow depressions, sometimes with mulga.

### REFERENCES

Everist (1938), p. 430 (as *Chloris dichanthioides*); Lazarides (1972), pp. 33–35; Jessop (1981), p. 465.

### KEY TO SPECIES

(See also p. 157 *Chloris* Key)

A monospecific genus endemic to Queensland.