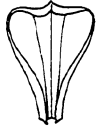
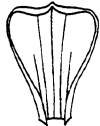


S
X3.9



G₁



G₂

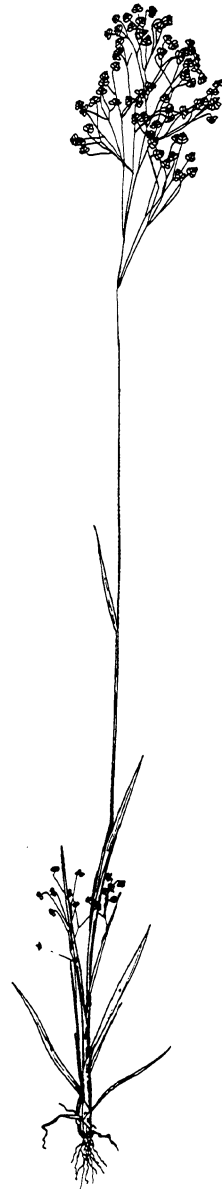


L



P

X7.8



BRIZA MINOR

Shivery or Lesser Quaking Grass

Annual, 10–60 cm tall. *Culms* solitary or loosely tufted, usually erect, sometimes slightly kneed at the base, round, slender. *Nodes* hairless, 2–4 per culm. *Leaves* rather sparse, basal and on the culms. *Leaf sheaths* rounded, smooth and hairless, not loose. *Ligule* membranous, 3–6 mm long, blunt. *Leaf blades* flat, 3–14 cm long, 3–9 mm wide, tapering gradually to a point from the base, slightly rough along the margin.

Inflorescence an open panicle, 4–20 cm long, very finely branched with numerous solitary spikelets, which shiver in the wind and droop downwards. *Spikelets* (S) plump, nodding, 3–7 mm long and wide, breaking up at maturity above the glumes. *Florets* 4–8, all similar, but decreasing slightly in size towards the apex of the spikelet. *Glumes* (G₁, G₂) persistent, slightly unequal, horizontally spreading from the rachis, broadly rounded or cupped, firmly membranous, 3–5-nerved, 2–3.5 mm long; the lower glume (G₁) slightly smaller than the upper (G₂). *Lemmas* (L) of the numerous florets all similar, except decreasing in size up the spikelet, closely overlapping up the axis, rounded on the back, 7–9-nerved, slightly broader than the glumes. *Paleas* (P) fairly broad, about $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the lemmas, 2-keeled with the 2 keels narrowly winged and minutely hairy. *Anthers* 3, 0.6 mm long.

This is a winter-growing annual found in waste places and as a garden weed in the southern downs and coastal southeast Queensland area. It is more typically a temperate region grass, being originally native of Europe.

REFERENCES

Bailey (1902),¹ p. 1914; Gardner (1952),² pp. 128–30; Burbidge and Gray (1970),³ p. 22; Willis (1970),⁴ pp. 91–92; Beadle *et al.* (1972),⁵ p. 637; Black (1978),⁶ p. 143.

KEY TO SPECIES

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| Spikelets 14–25 mm long, 8–15 mm wide, 7–20 florets per spikelet (quaking grass) | <i>B. maxima</i> ^{1,2,3,4,5,6} |
| Spikelets 3–7 mm long, 3–7 mm wide, 4–8 florets per spikelet (shivery or lesser quaking grass) | <i>B. minor</i> ^{1,2,3,4,5,6} |