

S₁



S₂

S₂



L₁



L₂



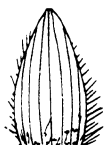
P₂

G₂

S₁

G₁

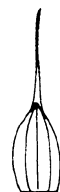
X5.2



G₂



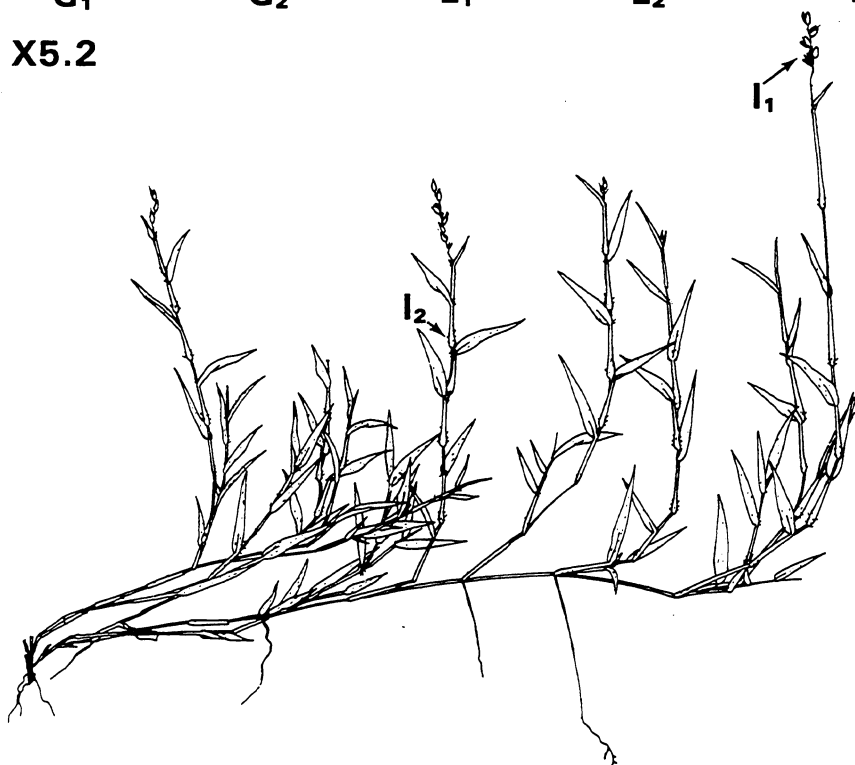
L₁



L₂



P₂



CALYPTOCHLOA GRACILLIMA

A prostrate, creeping perennial, up to 40 cm high and forming green mats. *Culms* erect or semi-erect, one or several arising from the nodes of the creeping stem, which also usually is rooted at the nodes, often branched at the nodes in the upper part, downwardly rough, without hairs. *Nodes* smooth, usually enclosed by the swollen bases of the sheaths in the erect culms, the internodes often barely longer than the leaf sheaths. *Leaves* numerous along the culms. *Leaf sheaths* somewhat loose, slightly hairy and rough, striate, often persisting following disarticulation of the blade. *Ligule* a rim of short hairs with a few longer ones on the margins. *Leaf blades* flat, constricted and slightly clasping at the base, short (up to 4 cm long) and 4 mm broad, narrowing to a point from above the base so that the margin is slightly rounded in outline, hairy on both sides, the margins distinct and downwardly rough.

Inflorescences (I_1 , I_2) in two forms, one terminal (visible), the other axillary (concealed). *Terminal inflorescence* (I_1) a single spike-like raceme, 1–4 cm long, the spikelets borne singly on short pedicels on either side of the axis, falling entire from the axis at maturity. *Spikelets* (S_1) 3.5 mm long, excluding the short bristle, falling entire at maturity. *Florets* 2, the lower one reduced to a sterile lemma, the upper one bisexual. *Glumes* (G_1 , G_2) very unequal; the lower glume (G_1) about 0.2 mm long, reduced to a small scale; the upper (G_2) as long as the spikelet, somewhat thickened, hairy on the margin and base of the back, 7-nerved. *Lemma* (L_1) of the lower sterile floret similar in length to G_2 , slightly narrower, 7-nerved, the back and margins covered with tubercle-based hairs. *Palea* absent. *Lemma* (L_2) of the upper fertile floret faintly 3-nerved, smooth, slightly hardened, rounded on the back, the tip produced into a slightly curved short awn up to 2 mm long. *Palea* (P_2) similar to the lemma, faintly 2-nerved. *Anthers* 3, 1.5 mm long. *Axillary inflorescence* (I_1) a single spikelet borne in the swollen base of some of the upper leaf sheaths. *Spikelets* (S_2) apparently cleistogamous, 4–5.5 mm long with only a small tuft of hairs at the base. *Florets* 2, the lower sterile and reduced only to a lemma, the upper bisexual. *Glumes*, only the upper glume (G_2) present and this reduced to a small scale 0.5–1.5 mm long. *Lemma* (L_1) of the lower sterile floret 4–5 mm long, 5-nerved, rounded on the tip and slightly hairy at the base of the back. *Palea* absent. *Lemma* (L_2) of the upper fertile floret 4–5.5 mm long, pointed and slightly awned on the tip. *Palea* (P_2) slightly shorter than the body of L_2 . *Anthers* 3, 0.3 mm long.

The species is of little economic consequence, since it is only locally abundant and restricted to shady habitats in the drier parts of eastern Queensland, particularly on poor sandstone country.

REFERENCE

Hubbard (1933c), t. 3210.

KEY TO SPECIES

There is only one species in southern Queensland.