



CLEISTOCHLOA SUBJUNCEA

Erect or slightly spreading perennial grass, the base clothed with thick scales. *Culms* wiry, mostly branched at the nodes, downwardly rough, striate. *Nodes* numerous, often with several branches. *Leaves* rather sparse and mostly on the culms. *Leaf sheaths* enclosing the culm when green, later standing out from the culm at the nodes, becoming straw-coloured, much shorter than the internodes, striate, usually with numerous erect white hairs on the back, persistent. *Ligule* reduced to a row of short hairs, slightly longer on the margins. *Leaf blades* short, 1–5 cm long, flat or rolled, 1–2.5 mm broad, pointed, downwardly rough with rigid tubercle-based hairs on the back and margin, breaking off at the ligule at maturity.

Inflorescences (I_1 , I_2) in two forms, one terminal, the other axillary. *Terminal inflorescence* (I_1) spike-like at the tip of the culm, up to 3.5–4.5 cm long, erect with 2–6 green spikelets on very short pedicels, borne singly and alternately along the axis. *Spikelets* (S_1) 3.5–4.5 mm long, chasmogamous, falling entire at maturity. *Florets* 2, the lower sterile and reduced only to a lemma, the upper bisexual. *Glumes* (G_1 , G_2) very dissimilar; the lower glume (G_1) very minute or absent; the upper (G_2) 3–3.8 mm long, rounded at the tip and sides, 5-nerved. *Lemma* (L_1) of the lower sterile floret longer, 3.5–4 mm, rounded at the tip, hairs on the upper margins and tip, 7-nerved. *Palea* absent. *Lemma* (L_2) of the upper fertile floret similar of L_1 , 5–7-nerved, hairy on the margins towards the apex. *Palea* (P_2) slightly shorter, 2-nerved, hairy on the margins towards the apex. *Anthers* 3, 2.5 mm long. *Axillary inflorescence* (I_2) reduced to a single spikelet, shortly pedicelled in the axil of the partly enclosing leaf sheath. *Spikelets* (S_2) 4–6 mm long, cleistogamous. *Florets* 2, the lower sterile and reduced only to a lemma, the upper bisexual. *Glumes* (G_1 , G_2) very dissimilar; the lower glume (G_1) minute or absent; the upper (G_2) 3–4.5 mm long, truncated at the tip, 4–6-nerved. *Lemma* (L_1) of the lower sterile floret longer, very tough, 2-keeled, truncated at the tip, largely enclosing the fertile floret. *Palea* absent. *Lemma* (L_2) of the fertile floret 5–7-nerved, about as long as L_1 , not tough, rounded, slightly hairy on the margins at the apex. *Palea* (P_2) rounded, 2-nerved. *Anthers* 3, 0.5–1 mm long.

The grass is quite widespread in eastern Queensland on the very poor, dry soils of sandstone ridges, where it is often found with *Dimorphochloa rigida* and species of *Entolasia*. It is not of significant fodder value.

REFERENCES

Hubbard (1933b), t. 3209; Blake (1941b), p. 3; Vickery (1961), pp. 68–69.

KEY TO SPECIES

Only one species of this genus occurs in southern Queensland.