



DACTYLIS GLOMERATA

Cocksfoot

A strongly tufted perennial up to 1 m or more tall. *Culms* more or less erect, strong, arising from the base and unbranched, more or less rough to the touch, hairless. *Nodes* 3–5, darkening at maturity, without hairs. *Leaves* green to greyish-green, predominantly basal, but also on the culms. *Leaf sheaths* flattened and keeled, particularly on the lower part of the culm, more or less rough, hairless, longer than the internodes. *Ligule* membranous, up to 12 mm long, pointed. *Leaf blades* folded, 10–40 cm long, 2–8 mm wide, hairless, rough downwards, linear, tapering gradually to a fine point from near the middle.

Inflorescence a green to purplish-green panicle up to 20 cm long with a few, distant, stiff branches, which are more or less erect, except at anthesis, when they are spreading; the secondary branches contracted and one-sided, the lower branches bare towards the base, angular, rough, crowded above. *Spikelets* (S) densely arranged on one side of the branch extremities, laterally compressed, 6–9 mm long, wedge-shaped, all alike, rough to the touch, breaking up at maturity above the persistent glumes and between the florets. *Florets* 2–5, bisexual, all alike. *Glumes* (G_1 , G_2) unequal, shorter than the spikelet, keeled, rough down the back of the keel, finely pointed; the lower glume (G_1) about $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the spikelet, 1-nerved; the upper (G_2) $\frac{3}{4}$ the spikelet length, 3-nerved, but the lateral nerves faint. *Lemmas* (L) all equal, exceeding the glumes, 4–7 mm long, pointed with a short, rough awn up to 1.5 mm long, 5-nerved, firm, apart from the membranous margins, the keels rough and fringed with hairs. *Paleas* (P) slightly shorter than the lemma, 2-nerved and 2-keeled, 2-pointed at the apex, membranous, minutely hairy or rough down the keels. *Anthems* 3, 3–4 mm long.

An introduced temperate pasture grass, occasionally sown for winter pastures or found wild in the temperate parts of the south-eastern region.

REFERENCES

Gardner (1952), p. 104; Hubbard (1954), p. 191; Burbidge and Gray (1970), p. 29; Willis (1970), pp. 92-93; Beadle *et al.* (1972), p. 637; Black (1978), p. 145.

KEY TO SPECIES

Only one species occurs in Queensland.