



# DEYEUXIA IMBRICATA

## A Bent Grass

Perennial grass, tufted and erect, 80–100 cm tall at maturity. *Culms* smooth and hairless, striate, unbranched, fine, the internodes exceeding the leaf sheaths. *Nodes* 3–4, smooth, hairless. *Leaves* mostly basal. *Leaf sheaths* somewhat loose, striate, very slightly rough. *Ligule* membranous, truncate, jagged, 3–6 mm long. *Leaf blades* up to 30 cm long and 4.5 mm wide, usually shorter and rather fine, tapering from above the middle to a fine point, slightly rough on both surfaces.

*Inflorescence* a dense, spike-like panicle, 7–14 cm long and 6–15 mm wide, occasionally lobed near the base, barely exerted from the uppermost leaf sheath, the axis rough, the branches numerous, very contracted and adpressed to the axis. *Spikelets* (S) 2–3.5 mm long, laterally compressed, solitary, numerous and densely overlapping, borne on very short pedicels 0.3–1 mm long, breaking up at maturity above the persistent glumes. *Floret* 1, bisexual. *Glumes* (G<sub>1</sub>, G<sub>2</sub>) about equal, 1-nerved, keeled, membranous, the length of the spikelet, slightly rough on the back down the keel and more so towards the margins, more or less enclosing the floret. *Lemma* (L) almost the length of the glumes, 5-nerved and shortly 4-toothed at the apex, slightly rough; a short awn, barely exceeding the lemma, borne on the back about  $\frac{2}{3}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up and continuous with the fifth nerve. *Palea* (P) about  $\frac{3}{4}$  the length of the lemma and narrower, 2-nerved and keeled, 1-pointed, thinly membranous. *Anthers* 3, about 0.7 mm long.

The species is confined to the border ranges in southeast Queensland, though it is more widespread in New South Wales. It is of insignificant forage value, as are all species of the genus in this area.

### REFERENCES

Vickery (1940),<sup>1</sup> (Key to Australian species); Burbidge and Gray (1970),<sup>2</sup> pp. 45–47; Willis (1970),<sup>3</sup> pp. 138–43; Beadle *et al.* (1972),<sup>4</sup> pp. 652–54.

### KEY TO SPECIES

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Panicle contracted to very dense.   | 2                                    |
| Panicle open.  | 3                                    |
| 2. Panicle very dense, linear, spikelets 2–3.5 mm, lemma awned from back in upper third (bent grass) | <i>D. imbricata</i> <sup>1</sup>     |
| Panicle contracted but not dense, spikelets 3.5–4.2 mm long, lemma awned from centre of back.        | <i>D. rodwayi</i> <sup>1,2,3</sup>   |
| 3. Panicle short with stiff branches. Leaves very fine. Plants small.                                | <i>D. gunniana</i> <sup>1,2,3</sup>  |
| Panicle long, loose. Leaves flat. Plants more than 30 cm high.                                       | 4                                    |
| 4. Spikelets 2.5–3.0 mm long, lemmas smooth.   | <i>D. decipiens</i> <sup>1,4</sup>   |
| Spikelets 1.5–2.5 mm long, lemmas minutely scabrous.   | <i>D. parviseta</i> <sup>1,3,4</sup> |