



## DIMORPHOCHLOA RIGIDA

A tufted, perennial grass, often rather densely bushy, from 50–100 cm tall. *Culms* arising from scaly, almost rhizomatous bases, rigid and erect, branching (often densely) at the nodes, the new season's growth often initiating from the upper nodes, slender to strongly wiry, smooth and hairless or with scattered white hairs. *Nodes* prominent, slightly hairy. *Leaves* mostly on the culms. *Leaf sheaths* loose in the lower parts, striate, mostly (particularly in the younger shoots) with white hairs up to 4 mm long, often denser around the ligule. *Ligule* a rim of stiff hairs. *Leaf blades* rolled, tapering from the base to a point, up to 7 cm long and 3 mm wide, variously with short, stiff white hairs on the back, downwardly rough.

*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, well exerted from the leaf sheath, up to 8 cm long. *Spikelets* ( $S_1$ ) 4 mm long, almost sessile and single or few on very short branches along the axis, chasmogamous, falling entire at maturity. *Florets* 2, the lower sterile and reduced to a lemma only, the upper bisexual. *Glumes* ( $G_1$ ,  $G_2$ ) very unequal; the lower glume ( $G_1$ ), if present, very minute; the upper ( $G_2$ ) the length of the spikelet, thickened, covered with short hairs on the back, 5–7-nerved, the tip blunt or faintly 3-pointed. *Lemma* ( $L_1$ ) of the lower sterile floret similar to  $G_2$ , 5–7-nerved, coming to a single point at its tip. *Palea* absent. *Lemma* ( $L_2$ ) of the upper fertile floret 5–7-nerved, not hairy on the back, but slightly hairy along the margins in the upper half, hardened, rounded on the back with the margins and tip clasping the palea. *Palea* ( $P_2$ ) also rounded, hardened, except the membranous, in-rolled margins, shortly hairy on the margins in the uppermost part or beak. *Anthers* 3, 2 mm long. *Axillary inflorescence* ( $I_2$ ) consisting of a solitary pedicelled spikelet arising from a short, leafy axillary shoot, which is produced at the nodes of previous season's culms. *Spikelets* ( $S_2$ ) cleistogamous, slightly smaller than the terminal spikelets. *Florets* 2, the lower sterile and reduced only to a lemma, the upper bisexual. *Glumes*, only the upper glume ( $G_2$ ) present, 5–9-nerved, faintly 3-pointed, the length of the spikelet. *Lemma* ( $L_1$ ) of the lower sterile floret 5-nerved, otherwise similar. *Palea* absent. *Lemma* ( $L_2$ ) of the upper fertile floret 5-nerved, not hairy on the margin. *Palea* ( $P_2$ ) 2-nerved, slightly beaked. *Anthers* 3, 1 mm long.

The grass is found locally on very poor sandstone ridges over a wide area. It is almost always found with *Cleistochloa subjuncea* and *Ancistrachne uncinulata*. It is of no significance as a forage grass.

### REFERENCES

Blake (1941*b*), pp. 2–4; Vickery (1961), pp. 66–67.

### KEY TO SPECIES

Only one species is known in this genus.