



DINEBRA RETROFLEXA

A laxly tufted annual. *Culms* up to 80 cm tall, erect or prostrate, smooth, hairless, often branched at the nodes. *Nodes* hairless, smooth, often very purple, frequently more than 3, the internodes mostly longer than the leaf sheaths. *Leaves* mostly on the culms. *Leaf sheaths* slightly keeled, rather loose, smooth, hairless, striate. *Ligule* a short membranous flap about 1 mm long, shortly hairy along the margin. *Leaf blades* flat, up to 1 cm wide and 20 cm long, somewhat rounded and contracted at the base above the ligule, tapering gradually to a point from near the base. Slightly rough on both surfaces with a few longish, white silky hairs scattered on the upper surface in the lower part.

Inflorescence a series of spikes borne along a 8–30 cm striate axis, in the lower part the spikes distinctly separate or sparingly clustered, but towards the tip becoming shorter and more densely crowded and, with maturity, becoming reflexed so that the inflorescence takes on the appearance of a fir tree; the axis of the spikes flattened, up to 6 cm long, the spikelets borne alternately beneath, roughly in 2 rows and slightly overlapping, occasionally a short secondary spike-like branch occurs. *Spikelets* (S) 5–8 mm long (including the long awn-like points of the glumes), all alike, somewhat laterally flattened, breaking up at maturity above the more or less persistent glumes. *Florets* 2–3, bisexual. *Glumes* (G_1 , G_2) similar and equal, 5–8 mm long, asymmetrical, 2-nerved, heavily keeled and rough down the keel, the tip produced into a long point or short awn, which is slightly curved. *Lemmas* (L) about 2 mm long, 3-nerved, membranous, rounded on the back. *Paleas* (P) as long as the lemma, 2-nerved and 2-keeled, rather flat between the keels, membranous. *Anthers* 3, 0.3 mm long.

This is a weed grass of some cultivation areas in the Lockyer Valley, Darling Downs and Biloela. Originating from Africa-India, it appears to be spreading gradually in areas of heavy clay soils, but as yet is not considered troublesome.

REFERENCE

Chippindall (1955), p. 185.

KEY TO SPECIES

This is a monospecific genus.