



ENTOLASIA STRICTA

Wiry Panic

A loosely tufted perennial, 20–80 cm high. *Culms* erect or ascending, arising from a short, scaly rhizome, sometimes straggling, slender or moderately slender, smooth and hairless, dull green, rather wiry, often branched profusely at the nodes, with many short leafy shoots. *Nodes* mostly 4–10, at maturity the internodes longer than the leaf sheaths. *Leaves* mostly along the culms, not basal. *Leaf sheaths* becoming loose, somewhat rough and covered with short, tubercle-based hairs, noticeably striate. *Ligule* reduced to a row of short hairs. *Leaf blades* flat or curved inwards, 0.5–10 cm long and 1–7 mm wide, tapering gradually from just above the rounded base to a fine point, commonly very small, rough downwards to the touch, often covered on both surfaces with short, tubercle-based hairs, at maturity disarticulating from the persistent sheaths at the ligule.

Inflorescence a very narrow racemose panicle, 2–10 cm long, sometimes reduced to a short, simple raceme, the 2–9 branches erect or only slightly spreading, mostly short, but up to 8 cm long, bearing short racemes of 2–10 spikelets, or themselves reduced to racemes, usually with one or a few long, silky hairs in the axils of the spikelets. *Spikelets* (S) 2.25–3.5 mm long, green or purplish in colour, slightly flattened on their backs, at maturity falling entire from the pedicels. *Florets* 2, the lower sterile and reduced only to a lemma, the upper bisexual. *Glumes* (G₁, G₂) very dissimilar, membranous, smooth and without hairs; the lower glume (G₁) 0.75–1 mm long, without nerves; the upper (G₂) the length of the spikelet, distinctly 5-nerved, rounded on the sides and bluntly pointed. *Lemma* (L₁) of the lower sterile floret only slightly less than the length of G₂ and similar to it. *Palea* absent. *Lemma* (L₂) of the upper fertile floret tough, almost the length of L₁, densely clothed on the back with fine, white, silky hairs, faintly 5-nerved, slightly more rounded than L₁, the margins partly enclosing the floret. *Palea* (P₂) the length of L₂, 2-nerved, tough, hairy on the back, though less so than L₂, the margins rolled inwards. *Anthers* 3, about 1 mm long.

The grass is widely distributed, though rarely abundant, throughout eastern Queensland, growing in more or less open forest country, often on rather poor sandy soils or stony ridges. Like the other two species in the genus, it is of little agronomic value.

REFERENCES

Bailey (1902),¹ p. 1830 (as *Panicum marginatum* var. *strictum*); Vickery (1961),² pp. 66–72; Willis (1970),³ p. 195; Beadle *et al.* (1972),⁴ p. 667.

KEY TO SPECIES

1. Upper glume and lower lemma exceeding fertile floret by 0.25–1 mm. Leaf blades flat and well developed. Spikelets 2.5–3.8 mm long (bordered panic) *E. marginata*^{1,2,3,4}
Upper glume and lower lemma about length of fertile floret. Leaf blades almost flat to strongly inrolled, sometimes much reduced. Culms wiry. 2
2. Spikelets 2.25–3.8 mm long (hairy panic) *E. stricta*^{1,2,4}
Spikelets 4–6 mm long. *E. whiteana*^{2,4}