



# *EREMOCHLOA BIMACULATA*

## Poverty Grass

A tufted perennial, with a rather stout rootstock and roots. *Culms* 30–60 cm tall, erect or slightly kneeed at the base, slender, striate, unbranched. *Nodes* 2–3, usually slightly bearded with short hairs, the internodes longer than the sheaths. *Leaves* mostly basal, the few culm leaves much shorter. *Leaf sheaths* keeled, flattened, striate, the upper ones usually hairless, the lower hairy along the margins in their upper part, otherwise smooth. *Ligule* membranous, about 1 mm long, truncate with fairly long, erect hairs from the upper margin of the sheath on either side of the ligule. *Leaf blades* 5–12 cm long, 2–3.5 mm wide, abruptly terminating in a blunt point, keeled, folded when dry, smooth, hairless.

*Inflorescence* a solitary, curved, spike-like raceme, 5–10 cm long. *Spikelets* ( $S_1$ ,  $S_2$ ) very dissimilar, in pairs, closely adpressed to the axis, one sessile, the other pedicellate, though much reduced or absent. *Florets* 2 in the sessile spikelet, the lower male, the upper female or bisexual; none in the pedicellate spikelet, which is reduced to a single glume. *Spikelets* ( $S$ ) at maturity falling entire. *Sessile spikelet* ( $S_1$ ) pale green or purplish in colour, 4–5 mm long and 1.5–1.75 mm wide, the callus at the base broad and hairless. *Glumes* ( $G_1$ ,  $G_2$ ) very unequal; the lower glume ( $G_1$ ) the shape of the spikelet, flat on the back, 2-keeled, with 5–7 nerves between the keels, papery, smooth, shining, winged on the keels in the upper part to produce a very blunt, rounded tip, the remainder of the keels slightly winged and bearing a row of long, curved spines up to 0.75 mm long, these folded around the spikelet when young, later spreading; the upper ( $G_2$ ) slightly shorter and narrower, papery, smooth, almost hairless, without spines, 3-nerved, slightly keeled along the nerves, the margins membranous and turned in. *Lemma* ( $L_1$ ) of the lower male floret translucent, faintly 2-nerved, slightly shorter than  $G_1$ , the upper margin with narrow flaps, which are faintly hairy along the edge. *Palea* ( $P_1$ ) similar to  $L_1$ , but without nerves. *Anthers* 3, 3 mm long. *Lemma* ( $L_2$ ) of the upper fertile floret similar to  $L_1$ , but nerveless. *Palea* ( $P_2$ ) similar to  $P_1$ . *Anthers* 3, about 3 mm long. *Pedicellate spikelet* ( $S_2$ ) reduced to a narrow, pointed glume, the point slightly exceeding the sessile spikelet, sometimes absent, the pedicel strap-like and striate.

As the common name implies, this is a poor grass both by virtue of its forage value and its normal habitat. It is widespread though usually not abundant through the open grassy forest and woodland country of southern Queensland.

### REFERENCES

Bailey (1902), p. 1856; Vickery (1961), pp. 22-23.

### KEY TO SPECIES

There is only one species of this grass in southern Queensland.