



EUSTACHYS DISTICHOPHYLLA

Evergreen Chloris

A strongly tufted perennial, sometimes with short branched rhizomes, up to 1 m tall. *Culms* dense and numerous from the base, where they are strongly flattened, often fairly stout, smooth, hairless, striate. *Nodes* about 3; smooth, hairless, slightly constricted. *Leaves* green, mostly basal and overlapping. *Leaf sheaths* loose, flattened, keeled and strongly overlapping in the basal part of the plant, less so above, generally exceeding the internodes, often purplish-pigmented at the base. *Ligule* a membranous rim fringed with short hairs. *Leaf blades* up to 20 mm wide, smooth, strongly keeled, particularly at the base, ending abruptly in a canoe-shaped tip, the upper leaves often rather long (up to 45 cm), the very basal ones shorter and disarticulating from the persistent sheaths at the ligule.

Inflorescence a panicle of numerous (more than 30), 10–30 cm-long racemes, arranged digitately in several bunched, close whorls, the racemes at first erect, but later spreading, becoming dark brown. *Spikelets* (S) all similar, subsessile, dark brown at maturity, 2.5 mm long, laterally compressed, closely arranged on one side of a slender rhachis and extending to its base, disarticulating above the persistent glumes at maturity. *Florets* 2, the lower bisexual, the upper sterile. *Glumes* (G_1 , G_2) thinly membranous; the lower glume (G_1) about $\frac{2}{3}$ spikelet length, 1-nerved, 1-keeled, rounded on the back at the base, sharply pointed; the upper (G_2) about $\frac{3}{4}$ spikelet length, narrower than G_1 , with delicately membranous infolded margins, some short hairs along the fold, 1-nerved, extending into a bristle from below the rather truncate and lobed tip. *Lemmas* (L_1 , L_2) very dissimilar; L_1 the length of the spikelet, broad, dark brown and fairly tough, 3-nerved, the lateral nerves along the margins and bearing dense, spreading, long silky hairs, rather flat on the back; L_2 $\frac{3}{4}$ spikelet length, brown, less thickened than L_1 , narrow at the base, but spreading and rounded in the upper part, the upper margins membranous on either side of the pointed tip, 3-nerved. *Palea* (P_1) the length of L_1 , 2-nerved and 2-keeled, membranous, rough on the keels with delicate, membranous, infolded flaps; P_2 absent. *Anthers* 3, 0.75 mm long, creamy-yellow.

A South American grass naturalized in the eastern districts of Queensland, particularly in the south. It is sometimes cultivated as an ornamental or found as an impurity in Rhodes grass stands.

REFERENCES

Bailey (1902), p. 1896; Everist (1937), pp. 190-91 (as *Chloris distichophylla*); Lazarides (1972) pp. 23-24.

KEY TO SPECIES

(See also page 157, *Chloris* Key).
Only one species occurs in Australia.