



**X7.5**

## HACKELOCHLOA GRANULARIS

An erect annual, 10–70 cm tall. *Culms* often considerably branched from the nodes, hairy, fairly slender. *Nodes* several, each with a tuft of short, bristly hairs. *Leaves* basal and on the culms, pale green, becoming reduced at the upper nodes. *Leaf sheaths* loose, striate, mostly shorter than the internodes, those from the upper nodes more or less containing the inflorescences, the basal ones relatively hairless, becoming more hairy upwards, the hairs short and stiff, erect and tubercle-based. *Ligule* a membranous rim, somewhat pointed at the middle, fringed with short hairs, tearing later. *Leaf blades* usually 5–7 cm long, but ranging from 3–12 cm, flat or somewhat folded, broadening at the base then contracting inwards at the ligule, gradually tapering towards the tip to a fine point, more or less covered on both surfaces with short, bristly, tubercle-based hairs.

*Inflorescence* a series of spike-like racemes up to 2.5 cm long, each partly enclosed by spathes, the whole in turn more or less enclosed by an expanded leaf sheath, the inflorescences either terminal or in the axils of secondary branches from the upper nodes, the rachis disarticulating together with the spikelets. *Spikelets* ( $S_1$ ,  $S_2$ ) in pairs arranged alternately along, and fitting into, one side of the raceme rachis; very dissimilar, one sessile, very rounded and bead-like, the other pedicellate, narrow and almost bract-like. *Sessile spikelet* ( $S_1$ ), bisexual, 1.5 mm long and as broad, very rounded with a distinctive, sculptured patterning on the back. *Florets* 2, the lower sterile, the upper bisexual. *Glumes* ( $G_1$ ,  $G_2$ ) very dissimilar; the lower glume ( $G_1$ ) very rounded and almost completely enclosing the spikelet, rigid and heavily thickened, on the back beautifully sculptured, with bumps arranged in rows; the upper ( $G_2$ ) slightly shorter, more or less embedded in the rachis, 3-nerved, the lateral nerves thickened, but membranous between. *Lemmas* ( $L_1$ ,  $L_2$ ) thinly membranous, nerveless;  $L_1$  broad, bluntly pointed, about the length of  $G_2$ ;  $L_2$  narrower and slightly shorter than  $L_1$ . *Palea* ( $P_2$ ) shorter and narrower than  $L_2$ , nerveless, delicately membranous;  $P_1$  absent. *Anthers* 3, 0.5 mm long, purplish-brown. *Pedicellate spikelet* ( $S_2$ ) 2.5 mm long, greenish, narrow, sterile, or sometimes male. *Florets* 2, the lower sterile, the upper sterile or sometimes male. *Glumes* ( $G_1$ ,  $G_2$ ) somewhat dissimilar, assymetrical, the nerves prominently green with whitish translucent interveinal parts;  $G_1$  the length of the spikelet, 5-nerved, the lateral nerves strongly keeled on the back and extended into narrow wings, which are rough along the margins;  $G_2$  slightly shorter than  $G_1$ , more or less 5-nerved, strongly keeled and folded along the mid-nerve. *Lemmas* ( $L_1$ ,  $L_2$ ) thinly membranous, nerveless, sometimes absent,  $L_1$  about  $\frac{3}{4}$  the length of  $G_2$ ;  $L_2$  about  $\frac{1}{2}$  length of  $G_2$ ; *Palea* ( $P_2$ ), if present, thinly membranous, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  the length of  $L_2$ .

This grass is known mainly from the northern part of Australia, with only an occasional record from within southern Queensland.

### REFERENCES

Gardner (1952), p. 306.

### KEY TO SPECIES

Only one species occurs in Australia.