



HOMOPHOLIS BELSONII

A tufted, often stoloniferous perennial, up to 40 cm tall. *Culms* more or less erect in the tufts or prostrate and then rooting, branched and often producing leafy shoots at the nodes, rather slender, smooth and hairless. *Nodes* hairless. *Leaves* basal and on the culms. *Leaf sheaths* smooth, hairless, striate, often longer than the internodes. *Ligule* membranous, truncate, up to 1.5 mm long. *Leaf blades* 2–2.5 mm wide and up to 8 cm long, slightly bluish-green, smooth or slightly rough, slightly contracted at the base, tapering to a point from near the middle.

Inflorescence an open panicle, up to 25 cm long and 20 cm wide, the branches slender, smooth, rigid and fairly straight, up to 15 cm long, simple or occasionally secondarily branched, erect at first before complete exertion of the panicle, but later spreading, the inflorescence then become almost globose. *Spikelets* (S) 4.5–6 mm long, mostly borne singly at the ends of the long branches, sometimes 2–3 close together, dark green in colour, all similar, falling entire at maturity. *Florets* 2, the lower neuter, the upper bisexual. *Glumes* (G_1 , G_2) almost equal, the length of the spikelet, 7-nerved; the lower (G_1) hairless, slightly narrowed, and slightly longer than the upper (G_2), which is shortly hairy on the lower part of the back. *Lemma* (L_1) of the lower sterile floret like G_2 and of similar length. *Palea* (P_1) very small, about $\frac{1}{5}$ the length of L_1 , membranous and nerveless. *Lemma* (L_2) of the upper fertile floret about $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the spikelet, smooth and shining, slightly thickened, faintly 5–7-nerved, rounded on the back with the membranous margins partly enclosing the palea. *Palea* (P_2) similar to L_2 , membranous, faintly 2-nerved, the margins extended into 2 short flaps in the lower half, which largely enclose the flower. *Anthers* 3, about 1.5 mm long.

The grass is locally abundant in the Darling Downs region on land cleared or partly cleared of brigalow. It would appear to be a useful forage species.

REFERENCE

Hubbard (1934a).

KEY TO SPECIES

This monospecific genus is apparently endemic to the Darling Downs region.