



ISACHNE GLOBOSA

Swampy Millet

A tufted perennial, more or less erect, but trailing and rooting and shooting from the nodes. *Culms* more or less erect at maturity, branching at the lower nodes, 15–70 cm tall, smooth, hairless, fairly slender. *Nodes* hairless, the internodes longer than the leaf sheaths. *Leaves* mostly on the culms. *Leaf sheaths* smooth, striate, hairless, except for some stiff hairs along the overlapping margins, which merge into the ligule. *Ligule* also with stiff hairs 2–3 mm long. *Leaf blades* mostly distinctly separated along the culm and standing out from it, slightly constricted and rounded at the base, tapering to a point from near the middle, 2–10 cm long and 3–8 mm wide, the veins longitudinally prominent, rather firm in texture, slightly rough on both surfaces.

Inflorescence an open firm panicle, ovate in outline, with the primary and secondary branches fairly fine, often crinkly, up to 12 cm long and 6 cm wide. *Spikelets* (S) all alike, about 2 mm long, on slender pedicels of varying length up to 5 mm, markedly globose, solitary, often purplish-coloured, hairless; towards maturity, the glumes often drop separately, leaving the florets naked and, in turn, they fall still attached in their pairs. *Florets* 2, the lower usually male and slightly larger than the upper bisexual floret. *Glumes* (G_1 , G_2) similar, the length of the spikelet, membranous; rounded on their backs and at the tips, at first enclosing the florets, but later progressively gaping open and eventually shedding. *Lemmas* (L_1 , L_2) similar, indistinctly 5–7-nerved, toughened, with a granular appearance, rounded on the back with the margins slightly clasping the paleas; the lower (L_1) slightly longer than the upper (L_2). *Paleas* (P_1 , P_2) similar in texture and equal to the lemmas, 2-nerved and faintly 2-keeled, flat on the back between the keels. *Anthers* 3, 1.25 mm in the lower male floret, slightly shorter in the upper fertile floret.

This is a grass of wet and swampy areas and is very widely distributed, though not usually common, in southern Queensland. It is relished by stock and grows rapidly.

REFERENCES

Bailey (1902), p. 1816 (as *I. australis*); Burbidge and Gray (1970), p. 66; Willis (1970), p. 205; Beadle *et al.* (1972), p. 673; Vickery (1975), pp. 221–23; Black (1978), p. 134.

KEY TO SPECIES

Only one rather variable species occurs in southern Queensland.