



## *LEPTURUS REPENS*

A creeping perennial grass, varying considerably in size, the stolons often very extensive, at flowering up to 25–40 cm tall. *Culms* mostly prostrate, though the flowering ones become erect, often considerably branched at the nodes, also rooting freely at the lower nodes, smooth, hairless. *Nodes* smooth, hairless. *Leaves* along the culms. *Leaf sheaths* becoming loose, slightly keeled, firm, smooth, hairless, often longer than the internodes. *Ligule* very short and irregular. *Leaf blades* 3–30 cm long and 4–10 mm wide, flat or slightly rolled, somewhat rough on the upper surface and margins, more or less smooth below, narrowed towards the base, tapering to point from below the middle.

*Inflorescence* an almost cylindrical spike, 4–15 cm long and tapering to an acute point, straight or slightly curved, the spikelets alternate along the axis, sessile and sunk in the cavities of an articulated axis, the joints of which are 5–8 mm long, striate with minute bristles. *Spikelets* (S) solitary, contained within the cavities of the axis, about 8–12 mm long (including the beak of the lower glume); at maturity, disarticulating individually and falling together with the joint. *Florets* 2, the lowermost bisexual, the upper reduced to a small scale. *Glumes* (G<sub>1</sub>, G<sub>2</sub>) similar in the terminal spikelet of each spike, but very different in all remaining spikelets; the lower glume (G<sub>1</sub>) absent or reduced to a minute, triangular, 1-nerved scale adjacent to the axis; the upper (G<sub>2</sub>) many-nerved, the body about 4 mm with the tip extending into a short or long, acutely-pointed tip, thickened, with minute bristles in rows on the back and margins in the upper half. *Lemma* (L<sub>1</sub>) of the lower fertile floret about 4 mm long, more or less membranous, 3-nerved, rounded on the back, slightly pointed at the tip, slightly shortly hairy at the base and on the upper margins. *Palea* (P<sub>1</sub>) the length of L<sub>1</sub>, membranous, 2-nerved, faintly 2-keeled, more or less flat on the back, slightly shortly hairy on the nerves in the upper part. *Anthers* 3, 1.5 mm long. A rudimentary floret is borne on a short 1 mm pedicel behind P<sub>1</sub>. *Lemma* (L<sub>2</sub>) 0.25–2.5 mm long, thinly membranous, faintly 3-nerved.

The grass is fairly common in coastal areas, growing close to water in sand, particularly coral sand, or creeping over rocks. It produces quite large green mats, which are not dense.

### REFERENCE

Bailey (1902), p. 1919.

### KEY TO SPECIES

Only one species occurs in southern Queensland.