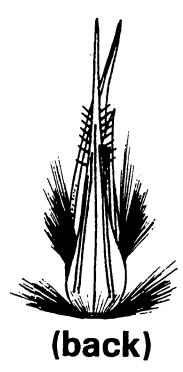


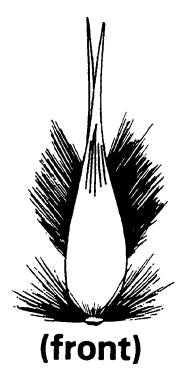


X3.7

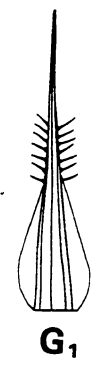


(back)

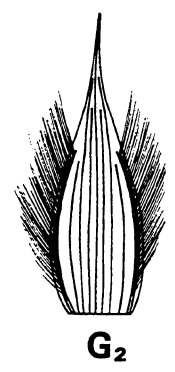
S



(front)



G<sub>1</sub>



G<sub>2</sub>



L<sub>1</sub>



P<sub>1</sub>



L<sub>2</sub>



P<sub>2</sub>

## PARANEURACHNE MUELLERI

A tufted perennial, often quite strongly stoloniferous. *Culms* slender, erect, up to 45 cm high, simple or branched (sometimes densely) from the lower nodes, smooth, hairless; stolons up to 1 m long, arching between the leafy and often-rooted nodes. *Nodes* densely clothed in short, woolly hairs, 3-5 in the erect culms, up to 10 in the prostrate culms, the internodes of both erect and prostrate culms striate, 1-3 nodes on the flowering branches from the stolon nodes. *Leaves* green to bluish-green, basal and on the culms, reduced at the base of the culms to overlapping scales, which are more or less hairy and woolly around their bases. *Leaf sheaths* rounded on the back, persistent, striate, not loose, the lower ones somewhat hairy, the upper ones hairless, distinctly shorter than the internodes. *Ligule* a rim of short hairs with fewer longer ones laterally. *Leaf blades* with scattered, stiff, tubercle-based hairs on the surface, flat or inrolled, 1-12 cm long and 2-4 mm wide.

*Inflorescence* a simple, terminal raceme, 2.7-3.5 cm long, dense, hairy, the axis only sometimes hairy. *Spikelets* (S) pale or purplish, 7.4-12 mm long (including small awns), hairy, dorsally flattened, falling entire at maturity from the persistent short pedicels, solitary, arranged spirally and overlapping on the axis, bearded with long hairs at the base. *Florets* 2, dissimilar, the lower male or sterile, the upper bisexual and shorter than the lower. *Glumes* (G<sub>1</sub>, G<sub>2</sub>) dissimilar; the lower glume (G<sub>1</sub>) flat on the back, rigidly membranous, the margins in the lower part dilated into delicately membranous flaps, the length of the spikelet, nerves 5-7, conspicuous and unevenly spaced, keeled along the margin in the upper part with stiff, tubercle-based hairs, the tip extended into an awn-like, rough point; the upper (G<sub>2</sub>) equal to or slightly longer and broader than G<sub>1</sub>, rigid and hardened, smooth and shining, 11-13-nerved, rounded on the back with a dense row of long, stiff hairs along the lateral nerves from near the base to  $\frac{3}{4}$  up the sides, the upper part flat on the back and conspicuously 5-nerved and 2-keeled, the tip extended into an awn-like point. *Lemmas* (L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>) dissimilar; L<sub>1</sub> rigid, membranous, 7-nerved, the margins with narrow membranous flaps, the base of the back rounded-convex in the lower part and flat-concave in the upper; L<sub>2</sub> slightly shorter and broader, rounded on the back, rigid and hardened, shining and smooth, 5-nerved with the lateral nerves close. *Paleas* (P<sub>1</sub>, P<sub>2</sub>) very dissimilar; P<sub>1</sub> short, membranous, about 1.5 mm long, faintly 2-nerved with the marginal flap infolded, ragged at the tip; P<sub>2</sub> like L<sub>2</sub>, rigid and hardened, 2-nerved and 2-keeled, flat on the back between the keels. *Anthers* 3, 2.5 mm long, yellow.

This is a grass of the semi arid to arid western zone, where it is found on sandy plains or stony slopes or ridges. It is frequently associated with *Triodia* spp., mulga (*Acacia aneura*) and the drier eucalypt woodlands and open forests. Its stoloniferous habit makes it quite conspicuous.

### REFERENCES

Lazarides (1970), p. 179 (as *Neurachne muelleri*); Blake (1972a), pp. 20-24; Black (1978), p. 237; Jessop (1981), p. 486.

### KEY TO SPECIES

This is a monospecific endemic Australian genus.