



TETRARRHENA JUNCEA

Wiry Ricegrass

A scrambling, wiry, but fairly slender perennial. *Culms* may be more than 1 mm long, tangled into a rather dense mass or growing over bushes, smooth, hairless, the culm bases often forming short, scaly stolons, the internodes generally exceeding the culms. *Nodes* numerous, smooth. *Leaves* mainly on the culms. *Leaf sheaths* smooth, striate, remaining fairly close. *Ligule* a short membranous rim less than 0.5 mm long, with a small tuft of very short hairs on the lateral margins. *Leaf blades* flat to inrolled, up to 3 mm wide and 7 cm long, tapering to a point from near the base, smooth.

Inflorescence a single, spike-like raceme up to 5 cm in length. *Spikelets* (S) 6 mm long, borne singly on very contracted pedicels on either side of the axis, at maturity breaking up above the persistent glumes. *Florets* 3, the upper bisexual, the 2 lower ones sterile. *Glumes* (G_1 , G_2) rather unequal and dissimilar; the lower glume (G_1) 1.5 mm long, 1-nerved, truncate, very shortly hairy on the margins in the lower part; the upper (G_2) about 2 mm long, 5-nerved, the tip slightly 2-lobed. *Lemmas* of the lower sterile florets (L_1 , L_2) similar, although the lower (L_1) slightly shorter than the upper (L_2) about 5 mm long, 7-nerved, rigid and toughened, slightly 2-lobed at the apex. *Paleas* absent. *Lemma* of the fertile floret (L_3) 5 mm long, broader than the other lemmas, though slightly less toughened, 7-nerved, slightly laterally flattened. *Palea* (P_3) $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of L_3 , very narrow, 1-nerved and laterally flattened. *Anthers* 4, about 2 mm long.

This grass is rare in southeast Queensland, being found in a few areas of heath and open eucalyptus forest in the McPherson Ranges (Jones, 1964). It is of no significance as a pasture grass.

REFERENCES

Willis (1970), pp. 90–91; Beadle *et al.* (1972), pp. 661–62; Vickery (1975), pp. 300–2.

KEY TO SPECIES

Only this one species occurs in southeastern Queensland.