



G₁
X5.4



G₂



L



P



TRIPOGON LOLIIFORMIS

Five-minute Grass

A tufted, erect annual (sometimes perennial). *Culms* few to numerous, fine, 5–30 cm tall at maturity, unbranched, erect, minutely hairy, the base with rather large bud scales. *Nodes* 3–4, hairless. *Leaves* mostly basal. *Leaf sheaths* smooth, striate, mostly basal, rounded, the orifice bearded with rather long, white, silky hairs. *Ligule* a short, ragged, hairy rim. *Leaf blades* rather short, up to 6 cm long and 1 mm wide, flat, tapering to a fine point, hairless to slightly hairy.

Inflorescence a simple spike, erect, up to 12 cm long, the axis flattened, hairless and finely striate. *Spikelets* (S) up to 14 mm long and 2 mm wide, laterally flattened, erect, separately oriented and rather distinct, more or less adpressed and borne edge-on in 2 rows along either side of the axis, breaking up at maturity above the persistent glumes. *Florets* numerous (up to 18), all bisexual (except the terminal one, which may be male) and similar. *Glumes* (G_1 , G_2) unequal, membranous, narrow; the lower glume (G_1) pointed, somewhat asymmetrical, 2 mm long, 1-nerved; the upper (G_2) blunt, 3 mm long, 3-nerved. *Lemmas* (L) 3-nerved, up to 3 mm long, hairless, broad at the base, shortly bilobed at the tip, with the central nerve continued into a short, fine awn or point, a short callus at the base bearded with long, fine hairs. *Paleas* (P) about 1 mm long, rounded on the sides, 2-nerved, with the nerves along the margins, which are shortly hairy. *Anthers* 3, about 0.2 mm long.

The only species of the genus occurring in Australia, it is widely distributed and sometimes locally abundant. As its common name implies, the grass is ephemeral, but it makes rapid growth after periodic rains, when it can provide useful short-term feed.

REFERENCES

Bailey (1902), p. 1912 (as *Diplachne loliiformis*); Gardner (1952), pp. 205–7; Burbidge and Gray (1970), p. 33; Lazarides (1970), p. 243; Willis (1970), p. 156; Black (1978), pp. 201–2; Jessop (1981), p. 461.

KEY TO SPECIES

Only one species occurs in southern Queensland.