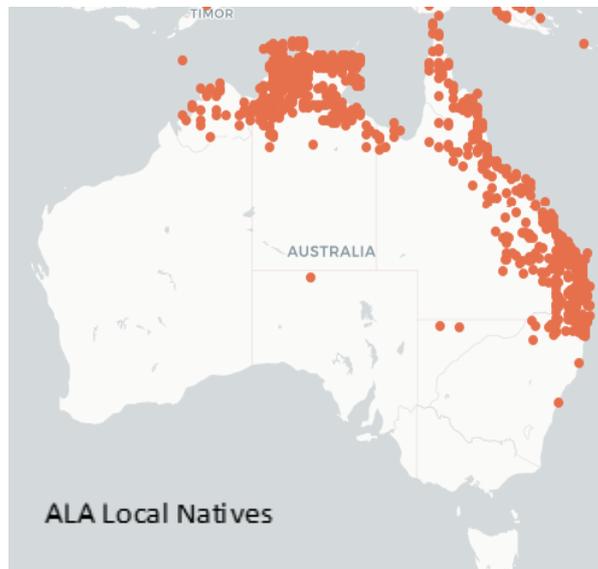


Poaceae

Alloteropsis semialata cockatoo grass



Jo Track iNat



ALA Local Natives

Ann Moran
Field Botanist



Craigwelden iNat



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ETYMOLOGY

(al-o-ter-OP-sis) Greek allotrios = foreign + opsis = appearance; The species semialatus semi = half (ah-LAH-tah) Latin winged.

LIFEFORM

Grass 50 cm-1 m

OCCURS

Gurulmundi, Moorlands Qld to NSW, NT, WA (Trop Africa & SE Asia)

QLD DISTRICTS

Burke, Burnett, Cook, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Maranoa, Moreton, North/South Kennedy, Port Curtis, Warrego, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Open forest, Eucalypt Woodlands, Dunes

LEAVES

Blades, 10-50 cm x 1-10 mm, filiform, flat or convolute, light green or glaucous. Basal tufts large hairy white tubular leaf base

FLOWERS

Diocious Digitate, green with racemose branches. Spikes 2-5, 2 stigma; Rachis angular, with scattered hairs villous on surface. Spikelet packing irregular.

Flowering times Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March

FRUIT

Spikelets 5-7.5 mm, longer outer husk purple fringed with hairs (2 or 3 Seedheads) Upper glume shortly awned (6 mm seed); **Fruiting times** Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March

ROOTS

White underground bulbs.

STEM

Sparse perennial grass with hairy jointed stem.

ETHNOBOTANY

Good fodder (Young parts eaten by cattle), Highly attractive to introduced cows and pigs. Only known plant to have subspecies with both C3 and C4 photosynthetic pathways.

TOLERANCE

Full sun

WILDLIFE

Important food source for Bandicoots, granivorous birds. Stems dug up and eaten by Wallabies

BIRD

Seed is especially important for seed eating birds including Pale-headed Rosella, Gouldian Finch, Hooded Parrot, Long-tailed Finch, Masked Finch, Golden-shouldered Parrot, Cockatiel, White Cockatoo

ID FEATURE

Perennial + Spikelets 6 mm long