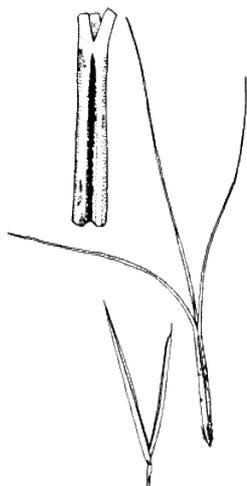


Poaceae

Aristida benthamii var *benthamii* bentham's wiregrass

Ann Moran
Field Botanist



ALA Local Natives



Scott W. Gavins iNat



Scott W. Gavins iNat



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ETYMOLOGY

(a-RIS-tid-a) Greek arista = awned alluding to trifid awn; The species benthamii (benth-HAH-mee-I) After George Bentham (1800-1884) English botanist/author of Flora;

LIFEFORM

Grass 50-90 cm

STATUS

Mostly eastern Qld, NSW. The only *Aristida* recorded from Tasmania. Eucalyptus, Brigalow

OCCURS

Gurulmundi Qld to East Kurrajong NSW (Tas)

QLD DISTRICTS

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

HABITAT

Eucalyptus, Brigalow. Acacia Woodland/Forest

LEAVES

Blades, 20-25 cm x 3 mm, each margin inward rolled or flat, (bending back and forth at angles in opposite directions, zig zagging) at maturity.

FLOWERS

Panicle 30 cm, branches distant narrow, loose open, interrupted. Glumes linear to ovate, unequal, 4.5-9 mm, lower long-acuminate, upper obtuse or acute.

Flowering times Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April, May

FRUIT

Caryopsis (seed coat), 3-4 mm, linear to elliptic, furrowed, brown purple sometimes mottled; awns 15 mm fine. Hygroscopic behaviour of awn means tissues twist, curl, or straighten in response to changing humidity, helping the seed drill into soil.

Fruiting times Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April, May

STEM

Slender, compactly tufted perennial; Stems thin, needle-like (terete) or compressed, simple or branched, becoming smooth.

ETHNOBOTANY

Low value indicates pasture deterioration.

TOLERANCE

Full Sun; Well drained soils

INSECTS

Collix ghosha (Moth)

ID FEATURE

Tall weeping + Leaves 3 mm wide, flat to folded, flexuose (bending back and forth at angles in opposite directions, zigzagging) to curly + Glumes 5-9 mm, minutely scabrous + Inflorescences without thickened nodes + Ventral furrow of lemma free of tubercles + Awns of equal length