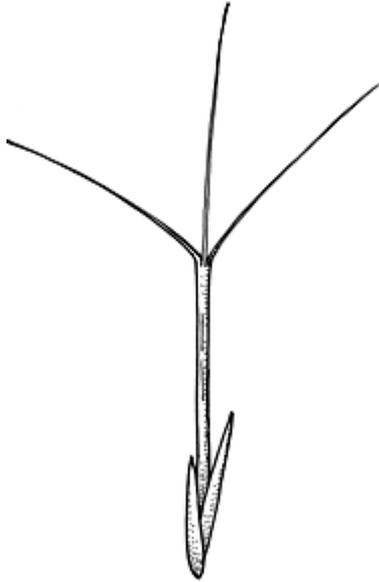


Poaceae
Aristida vagans
 threeawn spear-grass



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ETYMOLOGY

(a-RIS-tid-a) Greek arista = awned alluding to trifid awn; The Latin species vagans = wandering from the branching stems (culms).

LIFEFORM

Grass 38-85 cm

STATUS

Confined to South-eastern Australia SE Qld Doonside NSW Longevity 2-25 years.

OCCURS

Browns Plains, Sunnybank, Chinchilla Qld to Doonside, North Ryde NSW

QLD DISTRICTS

Burnett, Darling Downs, Leichhardt, Moreton, Port Curtis, South Kennedy, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Inland woodland

LEAVES

Basal, 5-12 cm x 1-1.5 mm, slender, inrolled leaf blade, sheath above nodes, short stiff, scabrous, hairless or pilose.

FLOWERS

Panicle, 18 cm, narrow, much branched not dense spike loose branches ascending spreading never strictly erect & close appressed. **Flowering times** March, April

FRUIT

Spikelets, 7-10 mm, lemma, circular in cross-section without a groove, branches bearing dry, single seeded with three fine short awn mature Seed Dispersed by adhesion to animal fur and passing people. Awns assist seed burial, Hygroscopic behaviour of awn means tissues twist, curl, or straighten in response to changing humidity helping the seed drill into soil.

Fruiting times March, April, May, June

ROOTS

Rhizomatous perennial fine 8 cm roots

STEM

Erect tufted perennial: Culms simple or sometimes strongly branched.

ETHNOBOTANY

Tends to increase with overgrazing.

TOLERANCE

Full Sun, drought tolerant poor soils

WILDLIFE

Good habitat plant providing refuge; food source of for small birds and animals; Leaves eaten by Eastern Grey Kangaroo.

INSECTS

Collix ghosha (Moth)

BUTTERFLY

Mycalesis perseus Dingy Bush-brown

ID FEATURE

Stiffly spreading panicle branches + Inflorescences 6-12 cm irregular in outline + Lemma 12 mm, with very short fine awns.