# Poaceae
## *Aristida warburgii*
### wallum wiregrass

**Ann Moran**
**Field Botanist**


ALA Local Natives


Scott W. Gavins iNat


hrosenswdpi iNat

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| **ETYMOLOGY** | (a-RIS-tid-a) Greek arista = awned alluding to trifid awn; The species warburgii = After Otto Warburg (1859-1938) German Botanist. |
| **LIFEFORM** | Grass 10 x 90 cm Long |
| **STATUS** | Coastal Cape York NE Qld, Bundaberg, Sunnybank SE Qld to NSW (NG) Associated with Eucalyptus and Melaleuca communities Recorded @ 115 Location |
| **QLD DISTRICTS** | Burke, Burnett, Cook, Darling Downs, Moreton, North/South Kennedy, Port Curtis, Wide Bay |
| **OCCURS** | Darling Downs, Maryborough, Moorland Qld to NSW (NG) |
| **HABITAT** | Coastal Heath, Melaleuca Community, Rocky ridges |
| **LEAVES** | Blade, 16cm x 1-2 mm, slender inrolled, bristly, minutely scabrous with sheath glabrous. 0.5 mm ligule; with sheath smooth, hairless. |
| **FLOWERS** | Panicle, 20 cm contracted, loose, interrupted, branches few; Apex twisted below the unequal branches; spikelets 7-18 mm, linear to ovate, circular cross section, bearing 3 branched awns unequal, both acute to acuminate. **Flowering times** Most of the year |
| **FRUIT** | Lemma 7-12 mm, linear-elliptic, sparsely scabrous apex is twisted below the unequal branches, brown with purple markings; twisted, 5-17 mm column; middle sharply recurved,17-45mm awns; central thicker awn distinctly curved, thinner 2 side awns. Hygroscopic behaviour of awn means tissues twist, curl, or straighten in response to changing humidity, helping the seed drill into soil. **Fruiting times** Most of the year |
| **STEM** | Compact, tufted perennial grass, with wiry stems compressed or upper internodes needle-like, simple, few-noded, erect or sprawling. |
| **TOLERANCE** | Full Sun, Drought tolerant |
| **WILDLIFE** | Good habitat plant providing refuge of small lizards such as skinks; Leaves eaten by Eastern Grey Kangaroo. |
| **INSECTS** | *Collix ghosha* (Moth) |
| **BUTTERFLY** | *Mycalesis perseus* Dingy Bush-brown |
| **ID FEATURE** | Leaves confused with *Eriachne glabrata*; 3 awned dissimilar; median awn thicker and recurved at maturity; Twisted awn-columns. |

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