

Poaceae

Capillipedium spicigerum

scented top grass



Ann Moran
Field Botanist



ETYMOLOGY

(ca-pill-ee-PEED-ee-um) Latin capillus = hair + pedis = foot, (Hairy pedicels) The species spicigerum from the Latin spica = thorn + gero = carry, Inflorescence a spicate panicle.

LIFEFORM

Grass 1.5 m

STATUS

Widespread in Eucalyptus forests, woodlands of tropical, subtropical & rarely temperate eastern Australia. One record from N.T.

OCCURS

Cooktown, N Q to NSW, NT (Asia, Mal, Mel, NG, Philippines & New Caledonia)

QLD DISTRICTS

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

HABITAT

Open forest/Woodlands

LEAVES

Blades, 20-40 cm x 5-8 mm, loose spikelets in 3-8 at ends Leaf sheath covered in silky hairs: Lateral branches simple. Ligule fringed

FLOWERS

Panicle open, lanceolate, 10-25 x 5-7 cm, Primary panicle branches whorled at lower nodes.

Panicle branches capillary pubescent in axils. internodes linear, 1.6-2.5 mm, Raceme 3-8

jointed scented **Flowering Times** Feb, March, April, May, Nov, Dec

FRUIT

Fertile lemma linear, hyaline, 1-nerved. Lemma apex entire, acute, awned; Median

(principal) awn geniculate, 12-18 mm overall, **Fruiting Times** May

STEM

Nodes branched with rings of short hairs

LANDSCAPE

Ornamental Attractive with scented flower heads

WILDLIFE

Seed and insect eating birds. Shelter for small birds. Fodder of Eastern Greg Kangaroos, Wallabies

ID FEATURES

Confused with *Bothriochloa bladhii*. Both species are distinctly aromatic