

Poaceae
Cymbopogon refractus
 barbwire grass

Ann Moran
 Field Botanist

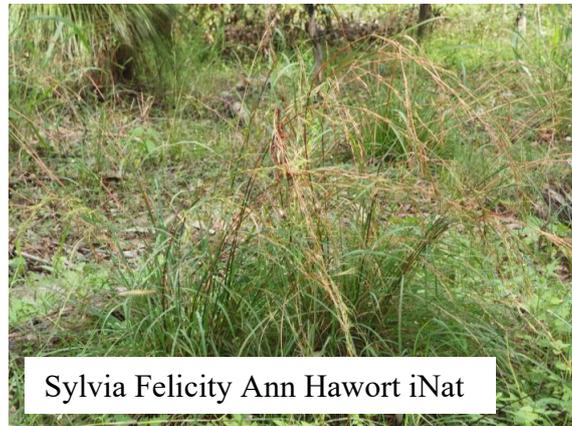


Lise Kool iNat



ALA Local Natives

Peter de Lange iNat



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ETYMOLOGY

(sim-bo-PO-gon) Greek kymbe = boat + pogon = beard; The species refractus = bent back sharply from the base.

LIFEFORM

Grass 1m

OCCURS

Boyne Valley Qld to Cumberland Plain NSW, Vic, NT

QLD DISTRICTS

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

HABITAT

Open forest, Woodland

LEAVES

Blades, 40 cm x 1-4 mm, narrow, linear, wiry underside rough to touch, tip tapering, bluish green.

FLOWERS

Spikes, red-brown turned back, spikelet with 1 glume only sessile spikelet usually awnless always distinctly reflexed, in short paired racemes which bend downward reflex upon maturity: **Flowering Times** Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April

FRUIT

Fruit boat-shaped, 2-6 pairs along the stem. Seeds have no awns. **Fruiting Times** March

STEM

Perennial tufted grass with wiry stems; Culms smooth with red stems, green leaf sheath.

ETHNOBOTANY

Scented leaves contain very significant amounts of elemicin, methyl eugenol and methyl isoeugenol; All of these are phenolic ethers in tea and flavour cooking, steam inhalation for cods & lung problem; (smells of Turpentine ginger or Lemon), contains cyanogenic capable of producing hydrocyanic acid,

LANDSCAPE USE

Attractive ornamental grass potential usage in landscaping

TOLERATES

Highly drought tolerant

WILDLIFE

Habitat for mammals and frogs.

BIRD

Fruit eaten by Finches, Cockatiel, Crimson Rosella, Pale-headed Rosella

BUTTERFLY

Taractrocera ina (No-Band Grass-dart)

INDIGENOUS USES

Used medicinally

ID FEATURES

Green sheaths and red stalk; Leaves scented when crushed: spicy, ginger or lemon scent; World 40 species Aust has 9 species.