

Poaceae

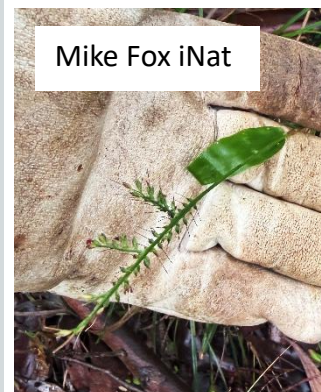
Oplismenus undulatifolius

Now *Oplismenus mollis*

rainforest beard grass



Ann Moran
Field Botanist



ETYMOLOGY

(o-PLIZ-men-us) Greek oplismenos = armed; because grasses are awned; The species undulata (un-dew-LAH-i-FOL-ium) wavy, referring to undulations in the leaves;

LIFEFORM

Grass 30 cm

OCCURS

Iron Range to Sunshine Coast Qld to Coffs harbour NSW (NG, Asia, Mal)

QLD DISTRICTS

Cook, Moreton, North/South Kennedy, Wide Bay

HABITAT

Shady coastal forest

LEAVES

Blades waves length ways, 9 x 1 cm, very narrowly ovate, flat, softly hairy, apex acuminate, base rounded margin scarcely undulate; purple underside when young;

FLOWERS

Spikelets 3-4 mm, lanceolate, scarcely compressed; Lower glume shorter than the spikelet, 5-7-nerved, mid-nerve continues as a stiff, smooth awn 4 times as long as spikelet;

Flowering times Dec, Jan, Feb

FRUIT

Dry, 1-seeded, indehiscent fruit. Lower lemma length of the spikelet, embracing the fertile floret, 9-nerved, awn short, 1 mm; palea shorter than lemma; Upper lemma 3 mm;

Fruiting times Dec, Jan, Feb

ROOTS

Sprawling grass rooting at nodes;

STEM

Weak, creeping, trailing perennial grass

LANDSCAPE USES

Good groundcover as no-mow lawn;

TOLERANCE

Shaded habitats

WILDLIFE

Sticky seeds distributed by animals and humans, easily adhering to fur/clothing;

BIRDS

Seed bird-dispersed (Floyd 1966)

BUTTERFLY

Mycalesis terminus Orange Bush-brown, *Ocybadistes ardea* Dark Orange Dart, *Toxidia doubledayi* Lilac Grass-skipper

ID FEATURE

Leaves soft velvety underside, waves length ways + Flowers on branched, bristly, panicles