

Poaceae

Oplismenus aemulus

Rainforest Grass
Creeping Beard Grass



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ETYMOLOGY

History of words

(o-PLIZ-men-us) Greek hoplismenos = armed; because grasses are awned; The species aemulus (EM-mew-lah) Latin competing with, emulative.. Subtending glumes more or less equal

LIFEFORM

Grass 15cm

STATUS

Conserved in Sydney Recorded @ >1112 locations (Moran, A 2009)

ORIGIN

Amamoor Q, Colo River, Glenbrook, Baulkham Hills, Doonside, Parsley Bay, Gladesville, Waterfall NSW, Vic (NG)

HABITAT

Gullies, Wetland, Rainforest, SEVT, AMVf, ANVf, DRf

TOLERANCES

Full sun to shade

LEAVES

Blades, 1.5-8 cm x 4-18 mm, broad hairy both surfaces; Ligule 3 mm, membranous at the base, dividing into cilia; sprinkled with fine hairs, midrib very narrow, whitish on underside, 10-15 fine nerves either side; slightly wavy margins;

FLOWERS

Spikelets close together on the racemes, 2.5-3.5 mm; Lower glume shorter than the spikelet, 5-nerved, awned from the apex, with a rather slender, flexuous awn over twice the length of the spikelet; Racemes 6 cm with 2-4 primary branches

Flowering Times: Dec, Jan, Feb, March, April, May

FRUIT

Dry, 1-seeded, indehiscent fruit, broader, 7-nerved, awned from behind the acute apex with 1 mm awn

Fruiting Times: All year

ROOTS

Stoloniferous rooting at nodes

ETHNOBOTANY

Interrelations between people and plants

Good groundcover in shaded areas. Coloniser of bare shady sites. Eaten by rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (Kubiak P).

BIRD

brown quail (Habitat)

BUTTERFLY

Mycalesis terminus orange bush-brown; *Heteronympha mirifica* wonder brown; *Toxidia doubledayi* lilac grass-skipper; *Toxidia rietmanni* white-brand grass-skipper; brown ringlets; long-tailed pea-blue, evening brown

INDIGENOUS USE

ID FEATURE