

Eragrostis curvula (Schrad.) Nees (Poaceae)

SPIKELET

Consisting of 4 – 10 florets that disarticulate above the glumes and between florets, disseminule falling from plant as a floret, free caryopsis, or caryopsis enclosed in lemma only

FLORET

General shape: narrowly ovate to oblong
Normal size: 1.8 – 3.0 mm long
Color: pale straw color
Texture: membranous or hyaline
Distinguishing features: lemma slightly keeled along mid-vein, apex tapering to a slight point; palea +/- equal in length to lemma, 2-veined, keels smooth or with short stiff hairs, apex rounded to slightly pointed

CARYOPSIS

General shape: narrowly oblong to ovate, dorsal-ventrally compressed, but three sided in cross-section with embryo lying along the slightly raised dorsal ridge, the ventral side either flat or with wide longitudinal depression
Normal size : (0.7) 1.0 – 1.7 mm long x 0.6 – 0.8 mm wide
Color : mostly translucent, light brown with +/- reddish tinge; scutellum +/- greenish black, root-shoot axis light brown to greenish black
Texture: minutely striate, glabrous
Embryo: +/- half the length of the caryopsis
Endosperm: solid
Hilum: +/- round, usually in a basal depression

Description by Deborah Meyer
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Florets and caryopses of *Eragrostis curvula*. Lemma (1) and palea (2) are thin and membranous. The caryopses (3) are usually translucent.



Caryopses in dorsal view (left) and ventral view (right). The scutellum (4) may or may not be darker in color than the root-shoot axis (5) of the embryo or both may be the same color as the main body of the caryopsis. The hilum (6) is located in a basal depression.

Images by Jim Effenberger