

Eragrostis tef (Zuccagni) Trotter (Poaceae)

SPIKELET

Consisting of 4 – 16 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: lanceolate tapering to a slight point

Normal size: 1.6 – 3.0 mm long

Color: straw colored

Texture: membranous or hyaline, lemma with short stiff hairs along veins and near apex

Distinguishing features: palea 1.4 – 2.2 mm long, hyaline, keels with short stiff hairs, apex blunt or slightly rounded

CARYOPSIS

General shape: oval, ovate, or oblong, slightly compressed laterally

Normal size : 0.7 – 1.3 mm long x 0.2 – 0.5 mm wide

Color : light brown to whitish; scutellum may be slightly lighter in color than the main body of the caryopsis

Texture: smooth to minutely striate, glabrous

Embryo: $\frac{2}{3}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the caryopsis

Endosperm: solid

Hilum: +/- round, usually in a basal depression



Florets and caryopses of *Eragrostis tef*. 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 embryo (4) occupies $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the caryopsis.

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