

Eleusine indica (L.) Gaertn. (Poaceae)

SPIKELET

Multiple floret spikelet with 5 – 7 florets that disarticulates above the glumes (glumes remain attached to plant) and between florets

FLORET

General shape: lanceolate

Normal size: 2.4 – 4(5) mm long

Color: straw colored

Texture: smooth, glabrous, papery

Distinguishing features: lemma strongly keeled along mid-vein and with short stiff hairs, somewhat keeled along two lateral veins, apex tapering to a point; callus blunt; awnless; rachilla short and stout; palea slightly shorter than lemma, strongly keeled along two veins, short stiff hairs along keels

FRUIT

Not technically a caryopsis because the seed coat is not fused to the pericarp

General shape: ovoid to ellipsoid

Normal size : ca. 2mm x 0.8 – 1.3 mm wide

Color : straw yellow to light brown

Texture: smooth, glabrous, thin, and papery pericarp

SEED

At maturity the seed easily separates from the papery pericarp

General shape: ovate to squarish in outline, dorsal side longitudinally ridged, ventral side +/- longitudinally grooved.

Normal size: 1 – 1.5 mm long x 0.7 – 1.1 mm wide

Color: purplish-black

Texture: transversely ridged

Embryo: nearly 1/3 the length of the caryopsis

Endosperm: solid

Hilum: round and located in a basal depression

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Eleusine indica florets (1), fruits (2) and true seeds (3).



True seeds with rough seed coat (testa) in dorsal view (left) showing the embryo (4) and in lateral view showing the basal depression (5) in which the hilum is located.

Images by Jim Effenberger