

Vulpia bromoides (L.) Gray (*Poaceae*)

SPIKELET

Multiple floret spikelet with 4 – 8 similar looking florets with distal floret usually sterile and slightly smaller in size; disarticulation generally above the glumes and between the florets

FLORET

General shape: narrowly lanceolate, dorsal-ventrally compressed, +/- arched backward

Normal size: 4.0 – 8.0 mm long x 0.5 – 0.8 mm wide

Color: pale straw colored to light brown

Texture: lemma thin and papery with short stiff hairs near margins and apex; palea membranous and +/- translucent

Distinguishing features: lemma 5-veined, tapered into terminal awn; awn 2.0 – 13.0 mm long; callus pointed and glabrous; palea equal to or slightly shorter than lemma, 2-veined; rachilla thin cylindrical, 0.6 – 1.1 mm long

CARYOPSIS

General shape: narrowly linear to spindle-shaped, dorsal-ventrally compressed, with deep longitudinal depression, +/- arched backward

Normal size : 3.5 – 5.0 mm long x 0.5 – 0.8 mm wide

Color : brown

Texture: smooth and glabrous, the lemma and palea +/- adherent

Embryo: 1/8 the length of the caryopsis

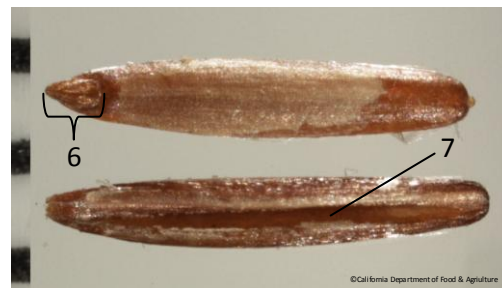
Endosperm: solid

Hilum: linear, 2/3 - 3/4 as long as caryopsis, located in a longitudinal depression

Description by Deborah Meyer
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Vulpia bromoides florets in ventral view (left) showing the rachilla (1), palea (2) and dorsal view showing the callus (3), lemma (4) and awn (5).



Caryopses: dorsal view (top) showing the embryo (6) and ventral view (bottom) showing the linear hilum in a longitudinal depression (7).

Images by Deborah Meyer & Jim Effenberger