

Vulpia myuros (L.) C. C. Gmel. (*Poaceae*)

SPIKELET

Multiple floret spikelet with 3 – 7 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

Normal size: 4.5 – 7.5 mm long x 0.4 – 0.6 (0.8) mm wide

Color: pale straw colored, +/- with purple tinge

Texture: lemma thin and papery with short stiff hairs and +/- with long hairs along margins on upper half; palea membranous, +/- translucent with short stiff hairs

Distinguishing features: lemma 5-veined, tapered into terminal awn; awn 5.0 – 22.0 mm long; callus pointed and glabrous; palea +/- equal in length to lemma, 2-veined; rachilla thin cylindrical, generally 0.75 – 1.0 mm long, covered with very short stiff hairs

CARYOPSIS

General shape: narrowly linear or spindle-shaped, dorsal-ventrally compressed, with deep longitudinal depression on ventral side

Normal size : 3.0 – 5.0 mm long x 0.4 – 0.6 (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 myuros florets in ventral view (left and center) showing the rachilla (1), palea (2), long hairs (3) along upper lemma margins and dorsal view showing the callus (4), lemma (5) and awn (6).



Caryopses: dorsal view (top) showing the embryo (7) and ventral view (bottom) showing the linear hilum in a longitudinal depression (8).

Images by Deborah Meyer and Jim Effenberger