

***Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench (Poaceae)**

Spikelet

Size: 4.0-7.0 L x 2.5-3.5 W x 2.0-3.0 D mm

Color: brownish or blackish red or light brown

Texture: smooth and shiny

Distinguishing features: one rachis segment (1) and one pedicel (2) (sterile spikelet often remaining attached) which are often pubescent and long, slender and unevenly broken at apex. The spikelet consists of a pair of hardened glumes, hyaline sterile lower lemma and an upper fertile floret with hyaline lemma and palea, this lemma may or may not be awned. Glumes (3) about equal in length to caryopsis

Caryopsis

General shape: elliptic with a rounded apex; dorsal-ventrally compressed.

Size: 3.8-6.8 L x 1.5-2.3 W x 1.3-1.5 D mm

Color: uneven light brown, reddish or whitish

Texture: smooth and dull, the hilum on the ventral side is sunk and dark dot.

Embryo (4): straight, lies under the dorsal testa in the middle. The root-shoot axis about 1/2 the length of the caryopsis.

Endosperm: soft to semi-solid

Hilum: oval, basal

Description: Deborah Meyer
California Department of Food & Agriculture



Spikelets and caryopsis of *Sorghum bicolor*