

Alopecurus myosuroides Huds. (Poaceae)

SPIKELET

Single floret spikelet, disarticulation below the glumes, falling as a unit from the plant

General shape: oval to ovate; laterally compressed

Normal size: 4.5 – 7.5 mm long x 1.75 – 2.0 mm wide

Color: pale straw colored to grayish brown

Texture: glumes leathery, granular, mostly glabrous except for long soft to short stiff hairs on keels and lateral veins and above basal attachment scar

Distinguishing features: glumes strongly keeled and winged, completely enclosing a single floret (excluding awn); spikelet attachment scar basal, with prominent raised ring

FLORET

General shape: laterally compressed

Normal size: 4.0 – 7.0 mm long

Color: straw colored

Texture: thin and papery

Distinguishing features: palea absent; lemma awn to 12.0 mm long, attached slightly above base, bent, extending out beyond the apex of the glumes by 3.0 – 6.0 mm

CARYOPSIS

General shape: laterally compressed, narrowly elliptic

Normal size : 2.0 – 3.0 mm long x 1.0 – 1.5 mm wide

Color : greenish-brown to brown

Texture: smooth

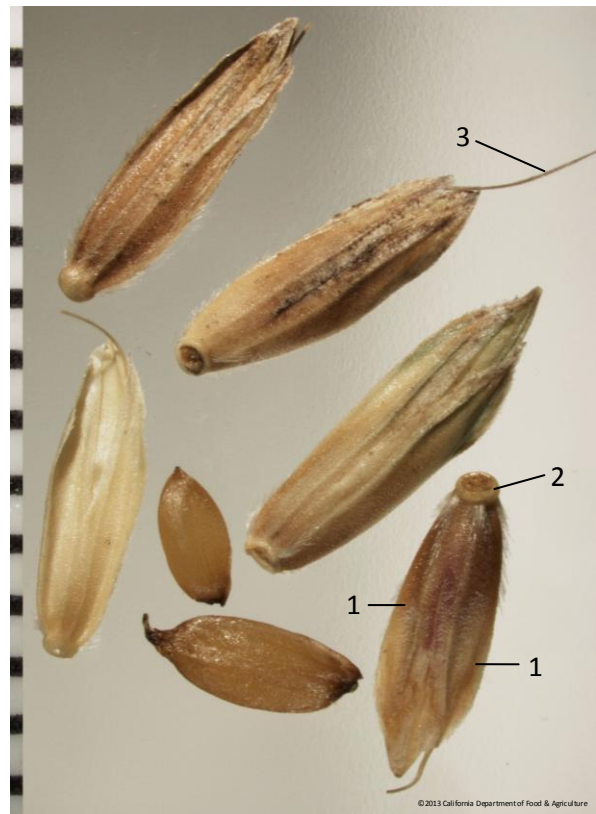
Embryo: 1/5 to 1/3 the length of the caryopsis, located along the dorsal edge of the caryopsis

Endosperm: semi-liquid

Hilum: oval

Distinguishing features: style bases fused together and sometimes visible on free caryopses as a pointed appendage on the apex of the caryopsis

Description by Deborah Meyer
California Department of Food & Agriculture



Laterally compressed spikelet; glumes (1) strongly keeled. Basal spikelet attachment scar with prominent ring (2). Floret entirely enclosed within the glumes. Lemma awn (3) extends beyond the glumes.



Caryopses in side-view. The caryopsis is laterally compressed, with oval-shaped basal hilum (4), embryo about 1/4 to 1/3 the length of the caryopsis (5), and fused style bases that sometimes remain attached to the apex of a free caryopsis (6).

Images by Jim Effenberger