

# *Cymbopogon ambiguus* (Hack.) A.Camus

Family:  
Poaceae

Camus, A.A. (1921) *Revue de Botanique Appliquée* 1: 290.

Common name:  
Scent grass; Lemon grass

## Stem

Caespitose perennial to 2 m high, lemon-scented when crushed.

## Leaves

Lower leaves with sheath persistent; sheath glabrous or obscurely villous, prominently veined; ligule 2-9 mm long, jagged; blade folded, c. 1 mm wide, glaucous. Dry leaves turn purplish brown.

## Flowers

Panicle 20-80 cm long; spathes 15-40 cm long. Racemes erect or slightly divergent, 15-25 mm long, ± densely villous; joints and pedicels densely villous with hairs to 4 mm long. Sessile spikelets 6-7 mm long; callus with hairs to 1.5 mm long. Lower glume 7-9-nerved, glabrous; upper glume subequal to the lower glume. Lower lemma a little shorter, obscurely 2-nerved; upper lemma sub-stipe-like, 2-lobed, awned between the lobes; awn 12-15 mm long. Pedicellate spikelets c. 3.5 mm long and 0.5 mm wide, with a 9-nerved lower glume and very small upper glume, or upper glume absent.

## Fruit

Caryopsis oblanceolate, subterete, ca. 2 x 1 mm, with adherent pericarp. Testa smooth and glossy, orange-brown

## Seedlings

Features not available.

## Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in WA, NT, CYP, NEQ, CEQ and widespread in the rest of Australia. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 900 m. Grows in edges of rainforest, in Eucalypt forest, vine thickets, various types of woodland and in wooded grassland. Usually grows near watercourses. Also known from a few records in Timor.

## Synonyms

*Andropogon exaltatus* var. *ambiguus* Hack., *Monographiae Phanerogamarum* 6: 596(1889).

## RFK Code

4253



Flowers. © Australian Plant Image Index (APII). Photographer: M. Fagg.



Inflorescence. © R.L. Barrett



Inflorescence. © R.L. Barrett



Leaf ligule. © R.L. Barrett



Habit. © R.L. Barrett



Herbarium specimen. © CSIRO

