Cyperus brevifolius (Rottb.) Endl. ex Hassk.

Family: Cyperaceae


Common name: Kyllinga; Mullimbimby Couch

Stem
Perennial with creeping rhizome which are slender and covered in reddish brown sheaths. Stems triquetrous, up to 40 cm tall, compressed and smooth.

Leaves
Leaves shorter to as long as the culms, V-shaped (canaliculate) in cross-section, 1-3 mm wide.

Flowers
Inflorescences capitately; the 3 inflorescence bracts (2 long + 1 short) are leaf-like and spreading upwards. Spikes ovoid, 6-7 x 6-8 mm; spikelets compressed about 3 x 1 mm, 1-flowered. Glumes with green denticulate keel.

Fruit
Nut yellowish brown, obovoid, biconvex, apiculate; half the length of the glume; testa very smooth.

Seedlings
Features not available.

Distribution and Ecology
A naturalised species that occurs in WA, NT, CYP, NEQ, CEQ and widespread through southeastern and southern Australia. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 810 m. Grows in rainforest, Eucalypt forest and on grassy slopes. Also occurs throughout the tropical and warm temperate regions of the world.

Natural History & Notes
Can become a pioneer plant in disturbed areas especially along roads (Clarkson 5090).
A weed of cultivation and agriculture (Wilson 1993).

Synonyms
Kyllinga brevifolia Rottb., Descriptiones et Iconem Rariores : (1773), Type: "Hanc cum priori a Domino Königio habeo."

RFK Code
4196

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