

Cyperus triceps (Rottb.) Endl.

Family:

Cyperaceae

Endlicher, S.L. (1842) *Catalogus Horti Academici Vindobonensis* 1: 94.

Stem

Tufted perennial with a short creeping rhizome, obtusely trigonous. Stems up to 20-30 cm tall, base covered by brownish disintegrating sheaths.

Leaves

Leaves ca. 8 per culm (stem). Leaf blades 30-200 x 1-5 mm, margins finely toothed, midrib finely toothed on the underside.

Flowers

Flowers arranged in dense heads 8-10 x 4-7 mm. subtended by 4 linear bracts up to 120 mm long. Spikelets oblong and strongly compressed, pale green to whitish. Each flower ca. 3 x 1 mm. Glumes with spinulose green keel, longitudinally veined, sparsely clothed in hairs. Anthers ca. 0.5 mm long. Filaments ca.2 mm long. Ovary laterally compressed, 0.6-1.2 x 0.5 mm. Style single. Stigmas 2. Ovule solitary.

Fruit

Nut dorsiventrally flattened, oblong, apiculate, yellowish brown to brown, 1-1.25 mm long, very smooth

Seedlings

Features not available.

Distribution and Ecology

Occurs in NEQ from Mareeba southwards to Lolworth. Altitudinal range from 390-663 m. Grows in damp places in Eucalypt forest. Also from Africa, India to China.

Natural History & Notes

Used for treating diabetes and fever (Johnson 1999).

Synonyms

Kyllinga triceps Rottb., *Descriptiones et Iconem Rariores* : 14, t. 4, fig. 6(1773), Type: Nostra planta multo tenerior est, quam Sloanei & Rheedii. Dominus Konigius legit.

RFK Code

4047



Flowers. © CSIRO



Flowers. © CSIRO



Herbarium specimen. © CSIRO

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