**Lophatherum gracile** Brongn.

**Family:** Poaceae


**Stem**

Culms tufted from a knotty rootstock with fusiform roots, base of culms bulbous, slender, stiffly erect, 60-150 cm tall.

**Leaves**

Leaf sheaths glabrous or pilose, margins with dense tubercle-based hairs; leaf blades 5-30 × 2-5 cm, glabrous or with long hairs on both surfaces, transverse veins between main veins prominent, base rounded to a 8-12 mm pseudopetiole; ligule brown, a ciliated membrane, hispid on backside.

**Flowers**

Inflorescence 10-25 cm long with near horizontal branches that are triquetrous and scabrous on the margins; racemes few, 5-10 cm long, loosely spiculate, erect at first with appressed spikelets but later obliquely spreading and the spikelets patent; pedicels short, thick, scabrous with long hairs at base of glumes. Spikelets many-flowered, narrowly lanceolate, subterete, 7-12 mm, base glabrous or hairy; glumes ovoid and rounded on back, subleathery with membranous margins, keeled with 2 veins on each side of the keel; lower glume 3-4.5 mm long, 5-veined, glabrous or stiffly hairy near margins and the apex; upper glume ca. 5 mm long and 5-7-veined, glabrous; lemma of fertile floret oblong with straight back, not keeled, 6-7 mm long, 7-13-nerved, with awn; palea lanceolate, hyaline; awn of the fertile and sterile lemmas 1.5-2 mm long.

**Fruit**

Caryopsis yellowish to reddish brown, smooth, with longitudinal and long cells on testa.

**Seedlings**

Features not available.

**Distribution and Ecology**

Occurs in CYP and NEQ as far south as the Tully Gorge. Altitudinal range from 40-400 m. Grows in openings in the rainforest, also in vineforest. Also from India, Malesia, New Guinea and the Pacific Islands.

**RFK Code**

4169