

Vascular Plants of Williamson County

Eragrostis barrelieri – MEDITERRANEAN LOVE GRASS [Poaceae]

Eragrostis barrelieri Daveau, MEDITERRANEAN LOVE GRASS. Annual, fibrous-rooted, caespitose, several–many-stemmed at base, in range prostrate-spreading to decumbent (in full sun often with inflorescence close-parallel to ground), 7–50 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, glabrous throughout except at the throat and collar of leaf sheath; not rooting from prostrate shoots. **Stems (culms):** cylindrical, to 2.5 mm diameter, ± glossy, greenish but becoming brownish aging dark purplish red, finely striped, bent at nodes, node subtended by yellowish green glandular band 0.5–1 mm long aging dark purplish red. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; prophyll strongly 2-keeled, to 18 mm long, membranous with green parallel veins on folded margins, margins ± winglike below midpoint, short-ciliate with the longest hairs below midpoint; sheath of foliage leaves open, rounded and smooth on back, with hairs next to collar to 4 mm long, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule of dense whitish hairs 0.3–0.5 mm long; blade lanceolate-linear, in range 20–120 × 2–5 mm, the widest near base, flat when fresh becoming inrolled when water stressed, minutely toothed on margins above midpoint, parallel-veined but not strongly ribbed and midvein not more conspicuous than other veins, dull. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal, open, panicles, panicle ovoid in outline, 50–160 × 30–60 mm, 3-dimensional with lateral branches spreading in all directions, lateral branches to 65 mm long, branched again at lower nodes and unbranched at upper nodes, spikelets spreading to reflexed, with 6–20+ florets, bracteate, glabrous, lacking awns; axes slender, flexible wiry, with a yellowish, warty, ringlike gland in branch and branchlet axils, main axis ridged but otherwise smooth, branchlet axes inconspicuously ridged and minutely scabrous on edges. **Spikelet:** narrowly lanceolate to oblong-linear compressed side-to-side, 4.5–15 × 1.2–1.8 mm, with zigzagged rachilla, breaking below each floret but with palea persistent along rachilla; **glumes** 2, unequal, membranous becoming scarious, ovate to lanceolate, lower glume 0.8–1.3 mm long, rounded on back and acute or rounded at tip, upper glume 1.4–1.7 mm long, keeled most of length and acute to acuminate at tip, 1-veined and minutely scabrous along vein, deciduous; **lemma** membranous aging scarious, lanceolate to ovate and boat-shaped, in range 2–2.3 mm long, > glumes, shallowly notched or blunt at tip, conspicuously 3-veined with veins not converging at tip, at anthesis translucent with greenish veins aging purplish and then grayish, midvein raised and minutely scabrous, lateral veins nearly smooth to slightly raised in fruit, deciduous from palea; **palea** membranous, in range 1.7–2 mm long, < lemma, arched, 2-keeled and 2-veined, scabrous-ciliate along keels, margins strongly folded. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, wedge-shaped, ± 0.2 mm long, ± 0.2 mm wide at truncate tip, whitish; **stamens** 3, free, included; filaments < 1 mm long, translucent-white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.25–0.35 mm long, strong to deep yellowish pink to deep purplish pink, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1, ± 1.25 mm long; ovary superior, broadly ellipsoid but truncate at tip, ± 0.4 mm long, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, included, widely spaced at base, slender, 1 mm long, glossy translucent-green, glabrous; stigmas narrowly feathery (plumose), translucent-white. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), ellipsoid, in range 0.6–1 × 0.3–0.5 mm, ± glossy red-brown or orange-brown, typically with short ridge at base opposite

embryo, with dimple on each side of ridge, the surface minutely longitudinally wrinkled, abscising by itself or with lemma.

A. C. Gibson & B. A. Prigge