

Vascular Plants of Lee County

Eragrostis curtipedicellata – GUMMY LOVEGRASS [Poaceae]

Eragrostis curtipedicellata Buckley (intergrades with *E. silveana*), GUMMY LOVEGRASS. Perennial herb, rhizomatous, not rosetted, fibrous-rooted, several-stemmed at base, somewhat tufted, in range to ca. 45 cm tall; shoots with many basal and several cauline leaves having sheaths concealing nodes and internodes, lower several basal leaves lacking or having diminutive blade, lacking glands and in range not gummy (viscid), with some long hairs at top of sheath and base of blade; rhizome creeping, shallow and horizontal, knotty, to 4 mm diameter at enlarged sectors, whitish, scales acute-triangular, < 3 mm long, flat to cupped, often smooth on back, transiting to basal leaves of each shoot; adventitious roots formed at nodes on lower side of rhizome. **Stems:** cylindrical, < 1.5 mm diameter, nodes and internodes fully hidden with overlapping sheaths, smooth, glabrous, lacking glands. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; prophyll open, membranous, flat and strongly 2-keeled and sharply folded along keels, triangular, to 4 mm long, whitish, minutely ciliate along keels; sheath open, margins overlapping at base and not membranous, the lower basal leaves with whitish triangular sheath without blade (lower basal leaves), with a well-developed green blade (the uppermost basal leaves), with vestigial blade, or with slender and short green vestigial blade (intermediate basal leaves), outer (lower) surface low-ridged, > internode and overlapping other sheaths, in range margins mostly without hairs, lacking lobes (auricles) but having a tuft of long hairs at top (hairs < 1 mm long at the basal leaf with the shortest blade increasing upward with increasing blade size); ligule truncate, densely short-ciliate, 0.1–0.4 mm long and with a row of short hairs on back side of ligule; collar with long hairs to 6 mm long, hairs lacking swollen cell at base (not pustulate); blade linear, in range 25–350 × < 2–5 mm (diminished or absent on the lowest leaves), flat drying inrolled to upper side, entire, parallel-veined, upper surface finely low-ridged with microhairs along veins, often with several straight hairs at base close to collar, the hairs to 6 mm long, lower surface with veins slightly raised, glabrous, not scabrous. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in open, terminal paniclelike array of many widely spreading, thin and flexible, primary branches, the primary branches in range to 120 mm long, spreading by an axillary pulvinus and with shorter branchlets with small axillary pulvinus, lateral spikelets subsessile and appressed, stalks (“pedicels”) mostly < 2 mm long and lacking axillary pulvinus, spikelets in range with 4–11 bisexual florets, bracteate, not glandular, lacking awns; principal axis straight, typically 4-sided and solid with scabrous lines, ca. 0.5 mm diameter, green, the primary branches often subopposite to pseudowhorled with 5+ “nodes” and the longest internodes to 45 mm long, each primary branch with an axillary pulvinus, the pulvinus light green with stiff hairs to 3 mm long (not pustulate); minor axes angled and scabrous along edges. **Spikelet:** lanceolate to oblong in outline and compressed side-to-side, in range at maturity 4–7.5 × 1–1.5 mm (young spikelets < 1 mm across), breaking below each lemma finally shedding paleas of spikelet; **glumes** 2, unequal, keeled, the keel scabrous base-to-tip, 1-veined, in range lower glume 0.8–1.0 mm long and upper glume broader and ± 1.5 mm long, keel greenish, persistent; rachilla segments ca. 0.6 mm long; **lemma** membranous, keeled roundish with short point at tip (somewhat mucronate), 1.4–1.8 mm long, > glume, 3-veined with pair of conspicuous and raised green lateral veins but not reaching tip, keel scabrous especially on exposed keel, in range straw-colored (not tinged red-purple); **palea**

conspicuously 2-keeled obtuse and short-fringed at top, 2-veined, 1–1.3 mm long and < lemma, colorless (hyaline), keels short-ciliate. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, ca. 0.1 mm long, colorless; **stamens** 3, free; filaments 1 mm long, initially clear aging threadlike and white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, in range 0.5–0.7 mm long, in range red-purple, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **pistil** 1, 1 mm long; ovary superior, ellipsoid, ca. 0.3 × 0.15 mm, translucent, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, widely spaced at top of ovary, lower portion threadlike and ± 0.4 mm long and upper portion bottlebrushlike, colorless. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), ellipsoid, in range 0.65–0.75 mm long, white maturing reddish brown, with faint striations.

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