

Triodia secunda

Name

Triodia secunda N.T. Burb.

Citation

J. Roy. Soc. Western Australia 30: 27–28 (1946)

Derivation

secunda—from Latin *secundus*, in botany indicating organs that are all oriented to the same side, here in reference to spikelet orientation on branches.

Common name

Running Buck Spinifex (Burbidge 1946)

Synonyms

None

Diagnostic features

With very long stolons (up to 2 m of bare stem connecting clumps); foliage non-resinous; leaf blades amphistomatous (hard-type) bright to dark green in active growth, the apex especially pungent; leaf sheath surfaces glabrous; orifice glabrous, but with stiff fimbriae; longest basal pedicels 0.5–1.5 mm long; spikelets secund on panicle branches; on broad alluvial flats in the northern Pilbara.

Habitat

Occurs on broad open alluvial flats near large rivers and paleo-rivers, sometimes in saline conditions on the edge of mudflats or saline clay-pans.

Distribution and frequency

Endemic to the north-east Pilbara. Abundant and usually the dominant species in its narrow habitat.

Similar species

Triodia secunda belongs to the Angusta-Wiseana group, by virtue of having amphistomatous (hard-type) leaf blades and 1–3-nerved glumes. *Triodia secunda* is unique in *Triodia* in having stiff fimbriae at the orifice (junction of the leaf blade and sheath).

Triodia angusta has similar dense, secund inflorescences and asymmetric glumes to *T. secunda* but lacks stiff fimbriae at the orifice (diagnostic for *T. secunda*), has dull green to blue-green foliage (bright to dark green in *T. secunda*), and stolons, when present, are short (usually very long and conspicuous in *T. secunda*).

Conservation status

Not considered at risk.

Identification without florets

The unique stiff fimbriae at the junction of the leaf blade and sheath allows instant recognition. The alluvial flat habit, very long stolons (bare stems up to 2 m long between clumps), and usually hairy inflorescences are also distinctive.



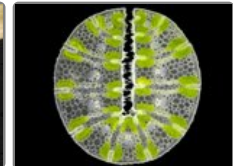
T. secunda spikelets.



T. secunda habitat on alluvial plain.



T. secunda orifice with characteristic stiff fimbriae.



T. secunda leaf section.



T. secunda inflorescence.



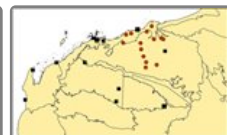
T. secunda inflorescence branch showing difference in appearance from above and below due to the secund (oriented to one side) arrangement of spikelets.



T. secunda lemmas.



T. secunda paleas.



T. secunda map.

Variation

A fairly uniform species.

Notes

The concept of *T. secunda* is the same as in Lazarides (1997), Lazarides *et al.* (2005) and *Ausgrass* (Sharp & Simon, 2002; Simon & Alonso, 2014), which include full descriptions.

Not palatable to stock except under extreme conditions (Burbidge 1946).

Population structure is probably significantly clonal, since interconnected clones cover tens of meters, running on long stolons.