

Fuirena ciliaris

Family: Cyperaceae

Species: *Fuirena ciliaris* (L.) Roxb.

Common Names: umbrella grass, yaa khom bang kiom (Thailand), rumput halia and kapohan (Indonesia), kurotamagayatsuri (Japan)

Synonyms:

Fuirena glomerata Lamk. (Kostermans et al, 1987; Haines and Lye, 1983)

Scirpus ciliaris L.

Bayer Code: FUICI

Description: Annual sedge, more or less tillering, erect to 40 cm high. Stems erect, nodes are hairy, leafy, and only obscurely angled. Leaves are reduced to scales on stem base, softly hairy, light green, up to 20 cm long higher up the stem, these overtopping the inflorescence. Ligule short, membranous, about 2 mm long. Spikelets cylindrical, up to 1 cm long, 3–4 mm wide with many hairy glumes, spirally arranged, each about 2 mm long excluding the spreading or recurved awn 1–2 mm long. Nutlets are triangular, 1.0 mm long.

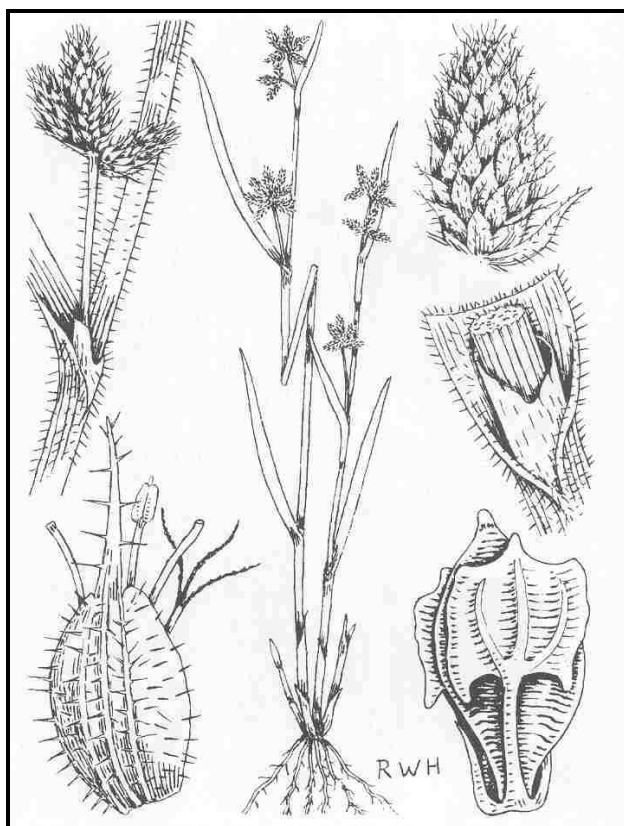


Figure 1. *Fuirena ciliaris* from Haines and Lye (1983)

Distribution: NGRP (2002) indicates that *Fuirena ciliaris* is native to a wide range of countries in Africa, Asia, and Australia. Its distribution is mainly tropical but includes subtropical regions in southern Africa, and Western Australia.

Fuirena ciliaris is native in Africa (Angola, Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Republic of South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo), Asia (Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, Japan, Korea, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam), and Australasia (Australia) (NGRP, 2002; Haines and Lye, 1987; Holm et al., 1979; Hooper and Napper, 1972; Moody, 1989; Tackholm, 1974).

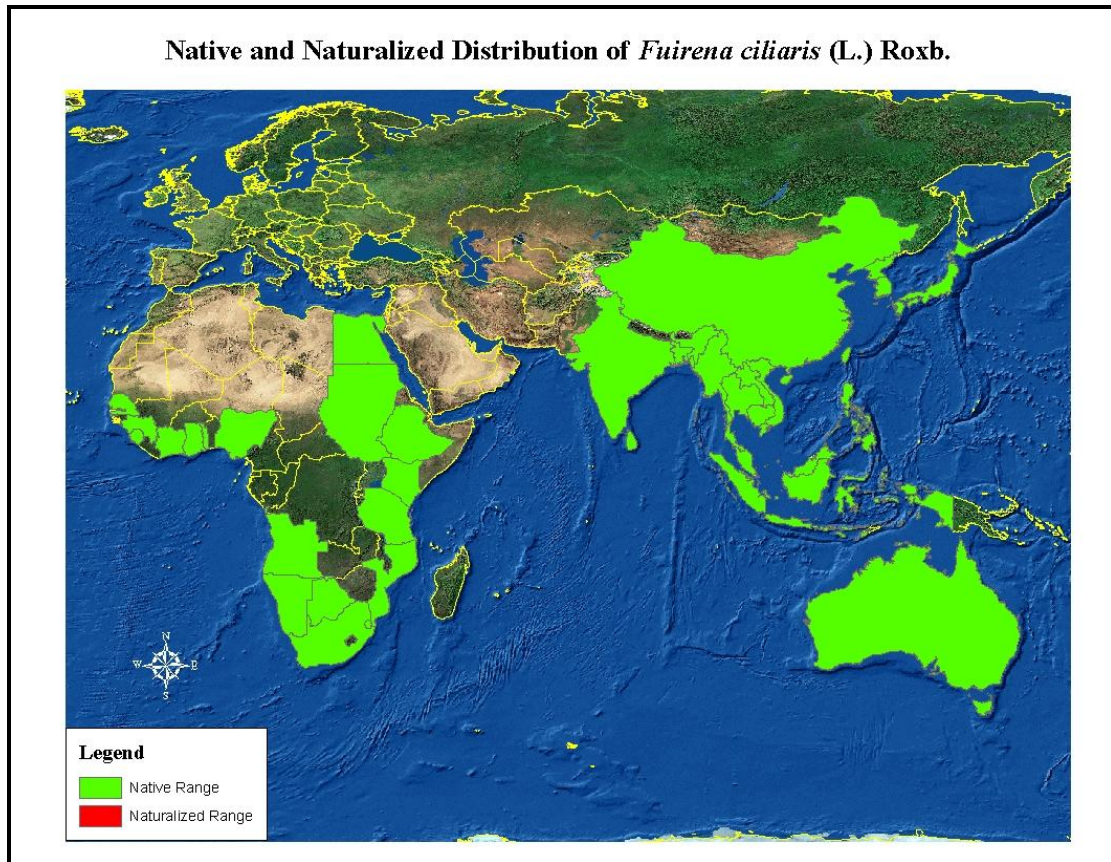


Figure 2. By Glenn Fowler, USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST, 2002 (Fowler, 2002)

Biology and Ecology: *Fuirena ciliaris* is a plant of wet ground, swampy grasslands, and rice fields, occurring usually below 1000 m in Indonesia but up to 1500 m in East Africa.

Possible Pathways to the United States: *Fuirena ciliaris* is a weed of rice in a great many countries. There is a risk of accidental introduction with crop seed or other agricultural produce.

Adverse Impact: Holm et al. (1979) record *Fuirena ciliaris* as a “principal” weed in India, Taiwan, and Thailand. It can therefore be a highly significant weed in rice and has the capacity to dominate wetland vegetation. It is a potential threat to wet habitats throughout the warmer regions of the United States.

Literature Cited:

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