

## *Ischaemum muticum*

### **Nomenclature:**

Family: Poaceae

Species: *Ischaemum muticum* L.

### **Synonyms:**

*Ischaemum glabratum* J. Presl

*Ischaemum repens* Roxb.

*Anatherum muticum* (L.) P. Beauv.

*Andropogon muticus* (L.) Steud.

*Andropogon polymorphus* Steud.

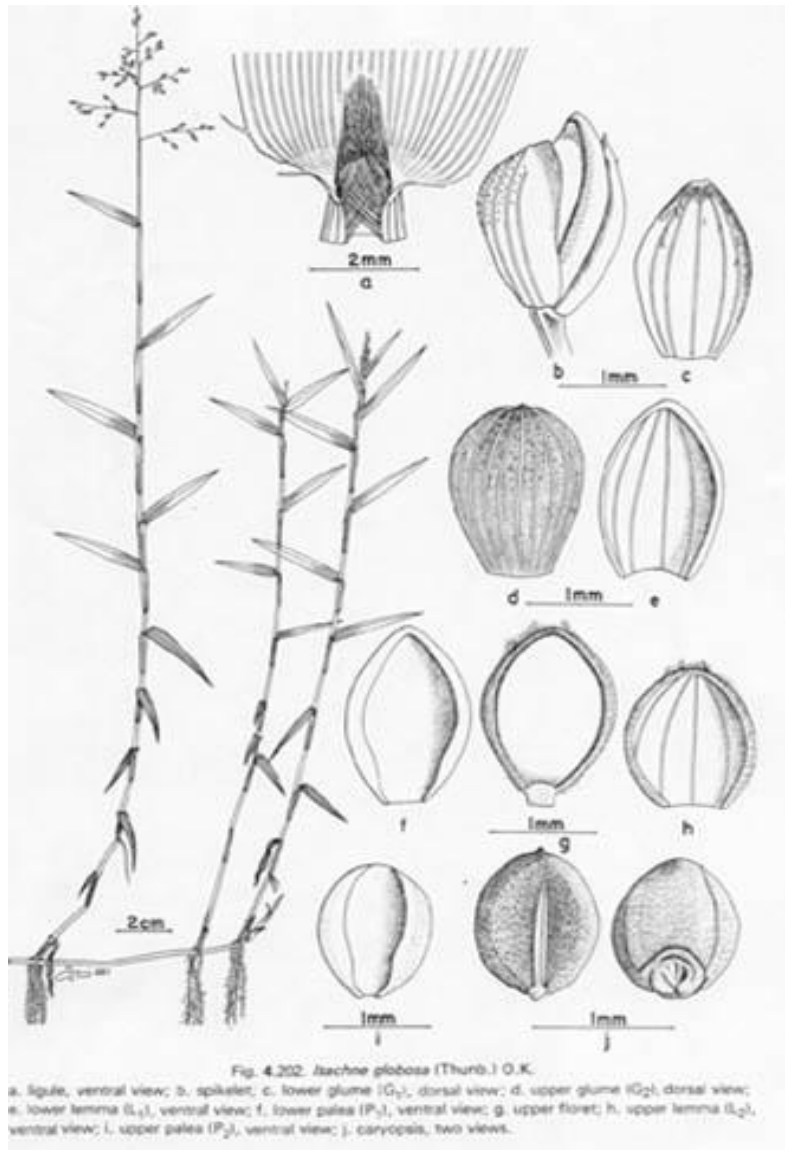
*Andropogon relictus* (J. Presl) Steud.

*Andropogon repens* (Roxb.) Steud.

**Common Names:** seashore centipede grass, bamboo grass, and drought grass (English); suket resap (Java, Indonesia); rumput kerupet (Bangka, Indonesia); rumput keremau and rumput tembaga jantan (Malaysia); ya-waitham (Thailand); mom trui (Vietnam); bambusgras (German)

**Bayer Code:** ISCMU

**Description:** A leafy, many-branched, stoloniferous spreading perennial, rooting at the nodes where they touch the soil, sometimes scrambling several meters high among and over shrubs; stolons long, up to 5 m or more, with numerous joints and up to 6 mm in diameter, covered by slightly overlapping pale or purple leaf sheaths with extremely short leaf-blades, resembling culm sheaths in bamboos. Leaf sheaths ciliate along outer margin; ligule truncate, small, shortly ciliate. Leaf-blade ovate-lanceolate to linear, 2–18 cm long, 0.5–2 cm wide, apex acute, base cordate, narrowing into a very short pseudopetiole. Flowering culms up to 60 cm high, glabrous, often red. Inflorescence terminal, composed of 2 racemes closely pressed together, each 1.5–5.5 cm long, rarely fully exerted. Spikelets arranged in pairs, one sessile and one pedicelled, on one side of a triangular rachis, straw-coloured. The sessile spikelet glabrous, lower glume distinctly reticulately nerved near the apex, enfolding the spikelet base; upper glume with a strongly keeled acute apex; lower floret male or hermaphrodite, upper floret hermaphrodite. The pedicelled spikelet chartaceous with a winged keel, upper glume sub-chartaceous, the upper lemma of both spikelets short-awned, awn included in the spikelet (Ipor and Baki, 1992).



***Ischaemum muticum*  
 Kostermans *et al.*, 1987**

**Distribution:**

Listed as a “principal” weed in Borneo and Malaysia; “present (as a weed, but unranked)” in New Guinea and Nicaragua; and in the flora, but not known to be a weed, in Sri Lanka (Holm *et al.*, 1979)

India to New Guinea and Australia, Polynesia (Barnes and Chan, 1990)

Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines (Waterhouse, 1993)

Middle East (?), South and Southeast Asia, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, Pacific Islands (Häfliger and Scholz, 1980)

India, Burma, Sri Lanka, extending to Malaysia (Bor, 1960)

China, East Asia, South and Southeast Asia, Malaysia, Australia, Southwest Pacific (Wiersema and Leon, 1999)

China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Australia (USDA, 2008)



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**Biology and Ecology:** *Ischaemum muticum* is recorded by Holm *et al.* (1979) as a principal weed in Malaysia and Borneo. Ipor and Baki (1992) report it as an opportunistic and aggressive colonizer of open and disturbed habitats that can develop into huge thickets in drainage channels and ditches. On the edges of secondary forest, plants grow very large, scrambling among bushes. It tolerates wet conditions, especially flooding, and short dry periods. It is usually found in areas receiving more than 1500 mm rainfall annually. This species has potential to invade wetter parts of the tropical United States and cause problems in perennial crops and natural vegetation.

**References:**

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