

Elytrostachys McClure

Distribution: Patchy, western part of the country and the Cordillera de La Costa.

Habitat: wet to seasonally dry forests, generally at low elevations.

VEGETATIVE CHARACTERS

Rhizomes pachymorph.

Habit medium to large-sized, erect below, scandent above.

Culms unarmed, diameter at the base 0.5 to 4 cm; **internodes** all subequal, hollow, thin to thick walled;

Culm leaves deciduous, **abaxial surface** scabrous to hispid; **sheath** with or without auricles, bearing fimbriae, these straight and very conspicuous (28-50 mm); **blades** always reflexed, base constricted at the sheath summit.

Midculm nodes bearing one bud per node, nodes lacking bands of white trichomes above and below the nodal line;

Branch complement consisting of a main dominant branch, accompanied by several to numerous smaller, secondary branches, borne on a weakly developed promontory.

Foliage leaf sheaths with fimbriae, these always very conspicuous (5-12 mm);

Blades 8 to 10 cm long, **abaxial surface** bicolored, with a distinct, marginal green band, **midrib** inconspicuous to moderately conspicuous.

REPRODUCTIVE CHARACTERS

Synflorescences racemose, capitate or spicate, consisting of pseudospikelets;

Glumes 2, subtended by one small external prophyll;

Florets generally one per spikelet,

Lemma length 4-5 times the width;

Palea lacking winged keels;

Rachilla extension present;

Lodicules 3;

Stamens 3;

Stigmas 2.

Species occurring in Venezuela:

Species	State	Habitat
<i>E. clavigera</i> McClure	Bolívar	Lower montane forests
<i>E. typica</i> McClure	Distrito Federal, Táchira	Montane forest



Elytostachys typica
Photos by X. Londoño