



Schismus barbatus

Poaceae

Common mediterranean grass



SCBA

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

growth

Tufted, cool-season annual up to 40 cm tall. Slow growing grass with smooth stems that ascend to somewhat grow on the ground.

leaves

Alternate with irregular jagged edges. Stem smooth with scattered soft hairs. Blades are narrowly linear, 5-10 cm long, 0.5-2 mm wide, and curled inward. Smooth except near the orifice where there is a ring of rigid hairs to 0.1 inch (3 mm).

Inflorescence

Narrow, erect, greenish-purple panicle, produced in spring. Dense, 1-5 cm long and ovate to elliptic in shape.

lemma

9-veined, membranous, 2-lobed apex; palea shorter or as long as lemma; awnless.

spikelet

Rachis breaking above glumes and between florets. Green when young,

aging to purplish. Spikelets laterally compressed; 5- to 10-flowered; glumes subequal, persistent, **scarious (papery) margins**, lanceolate, larger than lowest lemmas, 3-5 veined.

fruit

Seed roundish, translucent, loosely bounded by palea and lemma.



flower color

Elevation:
1000-4000 feet

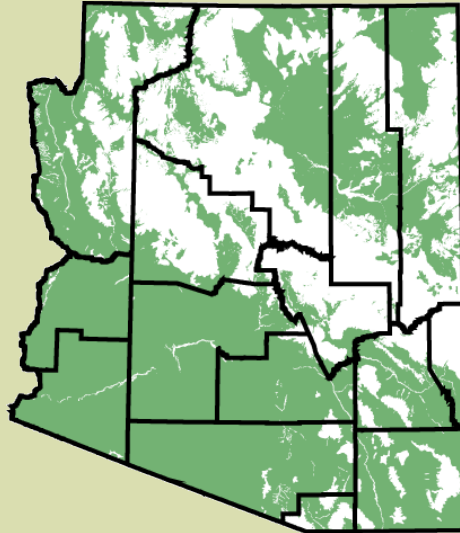
Ecotypes Invaded:
Desertlands and Grasslands.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

S. barbatus is a common weed of pastoral lands and disturbed sites. Preferred habitat: sandy soils, sandy flats, arroyos and washes, inter-dune troughs, at the bases of larger dunes, and as an agricultural and urban weed. Also common along roadsides, waste areas, fields, and dry river beds. Alien annual grasses in particular can facilitate the spread of fire.

S. barbatus is more common in semi-arid regions whereas *S. arabicus* is more common in arid regions. The length of the glumes in the terminal spikelet of the inflorescence is generally <5 mm in *S. arabicus* and >5 mm in *S. barbatus*.

SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.

