

Key to the 5 Families – from Van Klaphake *Key to the Commoner Species of Sedges and Rushes of Sydney and the Blue Mountains*, 4th edition, 2004

1	Inflorescence a whitish, spherical or compressed spherical ball. Small plant. Uncommon.	Eriocaulaceae <i>Eriocaulon scariosum</i>
1*	Inflorescence otherwise	
2	Flowers enclosed in 2 floral bracts with erect hairs. Tiny plants	Centrolepidaceae
2a	Floral bracts with long, finely pointed awns.	<i>Centrolepis fascicularis</i>
2a*	Floral bracts without awns or with a short point to 1mm long.	<i>Centrolepis strigosa</i>
2*	Inflorescence otherwise	
3	Plants with regularly spaced leafless sheaths on stem (rarely tiny leaves). Sheaths open (with overlapping edges). Flowers of spikelets or with tepals. Note: in the Restionaceae, <i>Lepyrodia anarthria</i> is an exception – only one sheath at the base of stem. Also in the Cyperaceae, <i>Caustis</i> has regular sheaths up the stem, <i>Baumea juncea</i> (not in ST) usually 2 additional sheaths – but in both the sheaths are closed (cylindrical).	Restionaceae
3*	Plants without regular sheaths up the stem (except <i>Caustis</i> in Cyperaceae)	
4	Fruit a capsule or flower with 6 tepals (petals + sepals). Stem sheaths open. Note: Capsule can be crushed with fingernails.	Juncaceae
4*	Fruit a nut(s) within a spikelet (with glumes). Stem sheaths closed. Note: if spikelet with one seed, few glumes – check hardness of nut. Nut can't be crushed with fingernails (single-seeded spikelets).	Cyperaceae