

FIMBRISTYLIS

Description: Annuals, or perennial herbs with short rhizome. **Culms** usually tufted, ± angular or subterete, striate or grooved. **Leaves** all basal, or also a few over the lower part of culms, occasionally reduced to short-bladed sheaths; ligule a fringe of hairs, or membranous, or absent; **inflorescence** terminal (very rarely pseudolateral), simple or compound, or head-like, or consisting of a single spikelet; involucre bracts usually leaf-like. **Spikelets** solitary or in clusters, terete, angular, or strongly laterally compressed, few to many-flowered; rachilla usually persistent, often winged, rarely spikelets falling off as a whole. **Glumes** usually spirally arranged, rarely distichous, up to 6 lower ones empty. **Flowers** bisexual. Hypogynous bristles absent. **Stamens** 1–3. Style 2- or 3-fid, with base usually thickened, deciduous, ciliate or glabrous. **Nut** trigonous or lenticular.

Distribution and occurrence: World: c. 300 species, cosmopolitan, tropical & warm-temp. regions. Australia: 85 species (c. 25 species endemic), all mainland States.

Key to the genus <i>Fimbristylis</i>		
1	Style 3-fid; nuts trigonous	2
	Style 2-fid; nuts biconvex	3
2	Mature spikelets 3–4.5 mm diam., clustered; glumes spirally arranged	<i>Fimbristylis neilsonii</i>
	Mature spikelets 1–2 mm diam., solitary on ultimate branches; glumes more or less distichous	<i>Fimbristylis cinnamometorum</i>
3	Nut with transverse wavy ridges; inflorescence of a single more or less nodding spikelet; leaves usually reduced to sheaths	<i>Fimbristylis nutans</i>
	Nut not transversely ridged; inflorescence of 1–numerous spikelets (if one, then spikelet is erect); leaf blades present	4
4	Leaves ligulate	5
	Leaves without ligule	9
5	Nut distinctly longitudinally striate and transversely trabeculate	6
	Nut smooth, minutely reticulate, or tuberculate	7
6	Spikelets less than 2 mm diam.; glumes less than 2 mm long	<i>Fimbristylis bisumbellata</i>
	Spikelets more than 2 mm diam.; glumes more than 2 mm long	<i>Fimbristylis dichotoma</i> ACT
7	Glumes pubescent on back, at least near apex	<i>Fimbristylis ferruginea</i>
	Glumes glabrous on back	8
8	Glumes more than 4 mm long; spikelets more than 3 mm diam	<i>Fimbristylis tristachya</i>
	Glumes less than 2 mm long; spikelets less than 3 mm diam	<i>Fimbristylis polytrichoides</i>
9	Base of style with long hairs covering nut	<i>Fimbristylis velata</i>
	Base of style with short hairs	<i>Fimbristylis aestivalis</i>

Fimbristylis dichotoma is listed in the Census of the Flora of the Australian Capital Territory, V 4 2017, but is not listed for the Southern Tablelands.

Fimbristylis dichotoma

Description: Tufted perennial with very short rhizome. Culms slender to rather stout, compressed, 10–75 (rarely to 100) cm high, 1–2 mm diam. Leaves from much shorter than to equalling culms, 1.5–5 mm wide; ligule a dense fringe of short hairs or absent. Inflorescence simple to decomposed, with few to numerous spikelets, solitary or clustered, on branches to 10 cm long; involucre bracts leaf-like, 1–3 much shorter to somewhat longer than inflorescence. Spikelets ovoid, terete, acute, 4–10 (rarely to 20) mm long, 2.5–3 (rarely to 5) mm diam. Glumes spiral, papery, obtuse, often mucronulate, with 3-nerved faint midrib and nerveless or obscurely few-nerved sides, 2–4.5 mm long, glabrous, orange-brown. Stamens 1–3; anthers 1.3–2 mm long. Style 2-fid, ciliate at least above. Nut biconvex, obovoid or broad-obovoid, shortly stipitate, 0.7–1.3 mm long, 0.6–1 mm diam., smooth or sparsely verruculose, conspicuously trabeculate by 5–10 (rarely more) longitudinal ribs on either face and numerous cross-bars, glistening white to pale yellow, rarely yellow-brown, with epidermal cells transversely elliptic to oblong.

Flowering: spring–summer.

Distribution and occurrence: Widespread in a variety of habitats; north from Griffith area.

NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, NWS, CWS, NWP, SWP, NFWP, SFWP. Other Australian states: Qld W.A. S.A. N.T.



Fimbristylis dichotoma



Fimbristylis dichotoma Fagg, M. 1986
82 km from Innamincka on road to
Coongie Lake, SA, [APII a.27383](#)



Fimbristylis dichotoma Toms, E.J.
2014, Carnarvon Station Reserve. Caves
Creek Road. c. 4.8 km SW of junction
with Ka Ka Mundi Road, QLD, [APII
dig.37730](#)