

PTILOTHRIX

Synonyms: *Ptilantherium auct.* non Steud

Description: Erect, tufted perennials. **Culms** rigid, nodeless. **Leaf** blades developed; ligule pallid, membranous. **Inflorescence** obconical or fan-shaped, with numerous spikelets clustered within large involucre bracts with smooth, black-brown sheathing bases with broad hyaline margins, the enlarged sheaths as long as the spikelets; the lowest bracts with leaf-like blades exceeding inflorescence. **Spikelets** 1- or 2-flowered. **Glumes** distichous, 3--5 lowest ones empty, uppermost glume reduced. **Perianth** bristles 3, antrorsely plumose below, scabrous above. **Stamens** 3. **Style** 3-fid, thickened, forming an elongated, pallid, persistent beak fused with nut and about as long as it. **Nut** trigonous, with 3 pale ribs.

Distribution and occurrence: World: 1 species, endemic Australia.

Ptilothrix deusta

Synonyms: *Ptilantherium deustum* (R.Br.) Kuek

Description: Slender tufted perennial. Culms terete, often grooved, smooth, glabrous, to 55 (rarely to 80) cm high, 1.1--1.7 mm diam. Leaf blades thickly channelled to flattish near apex, to 30 cm long, 0.5--1.3 mm wide; sheaths very pale yellow to grey-brown. Inflorescence obconical to fan-shaped, 1.5--2.5 cm long; 2 involucre bracts exceeding inflorescence, blades to 7 cm long. Spikelets 8--17 mm long. Rachilla whitish, elongated at maturity. Glumes nearly linear, hyaline and glabrous except for dark brown, hispidulous midrib with narrow yellow band beside it, acute, lower glumes mucronate, c. 12 mm long. Hypogynous bristles white to yellow-tinged, about as long as beak. Anthers c. 5 mm long, excluding appendage c. 1.3 mm long. Nut narrow-obovoid, c. 5 mm long, c. 0.7 mm diam., dark brown to blackish, minutely reticulate under smooth surface, shining.

Flowering: spring.

Distribution and occurrence: Coastal areas and eastern edge of Tablelands, north from near Eden. Grows in seasonally wet heath and dry sclerophyll forest and woodland, on sandy soil. NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST, NWS. Other Australian states: Qld



Ptilothrix deusta



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