

RESTIONACEAE

Description: Perennial herbs with a rush- or sedge-like habit; tufted or with creeping rhizomes, usually covered with closely imbricate scales. **Stems (culms)** green, terete to angular or flattened, simple or branched, straight or flexuous, solid or hollow. **Leaves** in adult plants reduced to sheathing scales, sometimes with a small linear or subulate lamina; sheath closely imbricate or loose, margins overlapping, at least at the base. **Flowers** usually in spikelets with imbricate rigid glumes, some of the outer ones usually empty; in several genera the flowers not in definite spikelets but in branched racemose panicle-like inflorescences with the glumes not or scarcely imbricate; spikelets, when present, 1-many-flowered, either similar or different in the 2 sexes, solitary and terminal, or axillary, or arranged in a racemose inflorescence. Male and female **inflorescences** either similar or considerably different. **Flowers** usually actinomorphic, 3- or 2-merous, bisexual or more usually unisexual and plants dioecious, a few species bisexual or monoecious, small, each in the axil of a +/- scarious glume; bracteoles 1 or 2, or more commonly absent. **Perianth** in 2 whorls, rarely absent; tepals 3-6, glume-like or scarious erect. Male **stamens** 3 (or 2 or 6), opposite the inner tepals; filaments free and filiform or rarely short; anthers 1-locular (rarely 2-locular), dorsifixed, dehiscence by longitudinal slits; rudimentary ovary sometimes present. Female **staminodes** 2, 3, or absent; ovary superior, sessile or shortly stipitate, 1-3-locular according to the number of carpels fully developed; styles 1-3; ovule solitary in each loculus, pendulous. **Fruit** a loculicidal capsule, 2- or 3-angled or 1-locular, or a small nut.

Distribution and occurrence: World: 30 genera, 550 species, all except 1 species Southern Hemisphere, with main centres of diversity in southern Africa & SW Australia, also in E Australia, New Zealand, Malesia & Chile. Australia: 20 genera, c. 130 species, all States.

Restionaceae characteristically occur on sandy or peaty soils low in nutrients, often in seasonally wet sites. The classification of Australian Restionaceae is under review (L. A. S. Johnson, B. G. Briggs & H. P. Linder, unpublished). The present treatment retains some names that will be changed when this work is completed. In particular the species known in Australia as *Restio* are not closely allied to the true *Restio* species of South Africa, and the Australian 'Restio' species include several groups that warrant generic rank. It is expected that the generic name *Baloskion* Raf. will be the name applied to N.S.W. species now placed in *Restio* except that *R. complanatus* will be placed in a separate genus (together with a number of Western Australian species). Similarly, some species now placed in *Lepyrodia* will be transferred to the new genus *Sporadanthus* F. Muell.

In the ACT – **Baloskion, Centrolepis%, Empodisma**

In the Southern Tablelands – **Baloskion, Centrolepis%, Empodisma, Leptocarpus, Lepyrodia, Saropsis#, Sporadanthus**

% **Centrolepis** was formerly in the Family Centrolepidaceae, however, it has recently been moved to the Family Restionaceae following the release of Angiosperm Phylogeny Group (APG) version IV which is a molecular-based system of classifying flowering plants -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/APG_IV_system). So *Centrolepis* species will be included in Restionaceae but not within the key.

Saropsis – *Saropsis fastigiata* is the only species in NSW. It is now classified as *Chordifex fastigiatus*. This change is not yet in the Restionaceae key.”

BALOSKION

Description: Dioecious perennial herbs, tufted or with a hard, creeping, partly erect rhizome, which is usually covered by imbricate, scarious scales, beneath which (in the Australia species), there are dense woolly hairs. **Culms** green, simple or branched, erect or diffuse, straight or flexuous, bearing persistent sheathing scales which are crowded and imbricate near the base but more distant above. **Leaves** with lamina usually absent, except in juvenile plants, or sometimes lamina reduced and

linear or terete. **Male and female inflorescences** either similar or dissimilar, 1-many-flowered, sessile or pedicellate, panicle-like or racemes or solitary and then axillary or terminal. **Glumes** imbricate; bracteoles absent. **Tepals** 4-6, glume-like, not exceeding the glumes in length. **Male** stamens 2 or 3; filaments filiform, free; anther 1-locular; rudimentary ovary small or absent. **Female** staminodes 2 or 3 or absent; ovary 2-[or 3]-locular; style branches 2 [or 3], more or less united towards the base. **Fruit** a 2- or 3-locular capsule, often oblique by the abortion of one loculus.

Distribution and occurrence: World: c. 40 species, endemic Australia. Australia: c. 39 species (endemic), all States except N.T.

The **key** to species includes all those species that were included in *Restio* sens. lat. in Flora of NSW vol. 4 (1993), i.e. not only species of *Baloskion* but also those of *Chordifex* and *Eurychorda*.

1	Culms not or scarcely flattened, branched or unbranched	2
	Culms much flattened, unbranched	<i>Eurychorda complanata</i>
2	Leaves reduced to sheath, lamina absent	3
	Leaves with a lamina present on some of sheaths, subulate	11
3	Culms branched	4
	Culms unbranched	6
4	Spikelets either axillary and sessile or terminal on lateral branches; branches numerous, all fertile, not in whorls	5
	Spikelets in a terminal panicle; lateral branches numerous, in whorls, finely divided, sterile	<i>Baloskion tetraphyllum</i>
5	Sheaths closely appressed; flowering branches erect, straight; spikelets in both sexes narrow	<i>Chordifex fastigiatus</i> ST
	Sheaths lax, open and spreading almost from the base; flowering branches very often flexuous; male spikelets ovoid, female narrow	<i>Chordifex dimorphus</i>
6	Sheaths with apex either glabrous or fringed with downy hairs less than 1 mm long; spikelets few-many; sterile and flowering glumes either glabrous or the margins sparingly hairy or ciliolate	7
	Sheaths on the upper portion of the culm mostly bearing an apical tuft of fine hairs 1-4 mm long; spikelets few, mostly 1-7; sterile and flowering glumes mostly fringed with long, fine hairs	<i>Baloskion fimbriatum</i> ST
7	Free (non-overlapping) portion of the lowest subtending bract on the axis of the inflorescence gradually tapered to an acute or obtuse apex or, if more abruptly tapered, then lax, in either case usually longer than the sheathing base and often exceeding the lowest spikelet, the whole appearing more or less lanceolate	8
	Free portion of the lowest subtending bract more or less abruptly tapered to the apex, never lax, shorter or only slightly longer than the sheathing base, only occasionally exceeding the lowest spikelet; internodes of the axis of the inflorescence elongated	10
8	Rhizome (2.5-)4-10 mm diam., up to 20 cm or more in length with few branches; culms 1-3 mm diam., usually spaced 1-5 mm apart on the rhizome; female spikelets ovoid, 6-10 mm	9

	Rhizome 3–4 mm diam., with short crowded branches 0.5–2 cm long, rarely longer; culms 0.75–1.5(–2.0) cm diam., closely arranged on the rhizome; female spikelets oblong-cylindrical, 10–11.5 mm long	<i>Baloskion gracile</i>
9	Free portion of the lowest subtending bract on the main axis of the inflorescence broad-lanceolate, lax, tending to embrace the lowest spikelets; outer surface of the sheaths and bracts wrinkled to finely muricate	<i>Baloskion australe</i> ACT, ST
	Free portion of the lowest subtending bract lanceolate to narrow-lanceolate, appressed, not tending to embrace the spikelets; outer surface of the sheaths and bracts not wrinkled to finely muricate	<i>Baloskion stenocoleum</i>
10	Spikelets on the lower part of the inflorescence not crowded, but borne on filiform pedicels or fine branches, either of which may be several cm long; apex of the subtending bracts closely appressed; cauline sheaths usually with few very short hairs on margins; flowering glumes 4–6 mm long	<i>Baloskion longipes</i> ST
	Spikelets mostly crowded together on the branches or at the nodes of the inflorescence, the exposed portion of the pedicels not exceeding 5 mm long; apex of the subtending bracts often reflexed by contact with the lower spikelets; cauline sheaths glabrous; flowering glumes c. 2.5–4 mm long	<i>Baloskion pallens</i>
11	Sheaths appressed	<i>Baloskion tenuiculme</i>
	Sheaths lax, open and spreading almost from the base	<i>Chordifex dimorphus</i>

Baloskion australe

Description: Dioecious perennial herb; rhizome 2.5-10 mm diam. Culms c. 40-100 cm high, 1.2-2 mm diam. Sheaths brown, appressed, c. 10-35 mm long, hairs at apex on margins, white, short, 0.1-0.3 mm long, apex acute, outer surface wrinkled to finely muricate; lamina absent. Spikelets 4-8, rarely 1 only, shortly pedicellate, arranged in a raceme or a narrow panicle, the whole 20-60 mm long, many-flowered. Outer surface of bracts wrinkled to finely muricate. Free portion of the lowest subtending bract on the main axis of the inflorescence broad-lanceolate, lax, tending to embrace the lowest spikelets. Glumes usually with few short hairs on margins. Male spikelets ovate to globose, c. 5.5-7 mm long. Male tepals 6; stamens 3; pistillode minute. Female spikelets ovate, c. 7-10.5 mm long. Female tepals 4; staminodes 2.

Distribution and occurrence: in wet peaty, sandy or gravelly soil, also in Sphagnum bogs; south from Capertee. NSW subdivisions: CT, ST. Other Australian states: Vic. Tas.

Baloskion fimbriatum

Description: Dioecious perennial herb; rhizome shortly creeping. Culms erect, thin and wiry, c. 20-85 cm high, c. 0.5-1.2 mm diam. Sheaths appressed, c. 10-15 mm long, apex acute; sheaths on the upper portion of the culm mostly with an apical tuft of fine hairs 1-4 mm long; lamina absent. Spikelets few, mostly 1-7. Sterile and flowering glumes mostly fringed with long, fine hairs. Spikelets arranged in a raceme or narrow panicle, or terminal when solitary; individual spikelets either sessile or borne on filiform pedicels, ovate to globose. Glumes ovate to broad ovate, apex caudate, margins fringed with short to long hairs. Male spikelets 6-8 mm long. Male tepals 6; stamens 3; pistillode present. Female spikelets 6.5-9 mm long. Female tepals 4; staminodes 2. Distribution and occurrence: in wet and poorly drained, deep, sandy soils; north from Nerriga. NSW subdivisions: CC, SC, NT, CT, ST. Other Australian states: Qld

Baloskion longipes

Description: Dioecious perennial herb, tufted or rhizome shortly creeping. Cauline sheaths usually with few very short hairs on margins. Culms erect, c. 90-150 cm high, 2-2.5 mm diam. Sheaths closely appressed, c. 20-30 mm long, apex acute; lamina absent. Spikelets on the lower part of the inflorescence not crowded, but borne on filiform pedicels or fine branches, either of which may be several cm long. Apex of the subtending bracts closely appressed. Flowering glumes 4-6 mm long. Spikelets 6-25, on filiform pedicels up to 60 mm long, arranged in a loose raceme or narrow panicle up to 25 cm long, many-flowered. Flowering glumes with apex caudate to cuspidate. Male spikelets ovate, 4-8 mm long. Male tepals 6; stamens 3; pistillode minute. Female spikelets ovate to elliptic, 8.5-9.3 mm long. Female tepals 4; staminodes 2.

Distribution and occurrence: in swamps or depressions in alluvium; in Clyde Mtn district. NSW subdivisions: CT, ST.

Threatened species: NSW TSCA: Vulnerable ROTAP: 3VC-

CENTROLEPIS

Centrolepis was formerly in the Family Centrolepidaceae, however, it has been moved recently to the Family Restionaceae following the release of Angiosperm Phylogeny Group (APG) version IV which is a molecular-based system of classifying flowering plants - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/APG_IV_system).

Description: Small tufted annual or cushion-forming perennial herbs. **Leaves** linear, innermost usually reduced to a short membranous glabrous sheath. **Scapes** erect and leafless or scape absent; inflorescence a terminal cymose head enclosed by 2 primary **bracts**; bracts with dilated sheathing bases, unequal, glume-like; each bract enclosing 1-numerous **pseudanthia**; pseudanthia each consisting of 1-30 +/- fused **female flowers** superimposed in 1 or 2 rows, styles usually fused at base, usually with 1 **male flower** at base; secondary bracts 2 or 3 per pseudanthium or absent, veinless, hyaline or scarious. **Infructescence** compound, dry, membranous; each follicle 1-seeded, dehiscing by an outer slit; seed ovoid to fusiform.

Distribution and occurrence: World: c. 25 spp., Aust., N.Z., Malesia. Aust.: 20 spp. (19 spp. endemic), all States.

Key to the genus <i>Centrolepis</i>		
1	Multicellular hairs present on leaves, at least near the base	2
	Multicellular hairs absent (plants completely glabrous or rarely with scattered microscopic papillae)	3
2	Perennial; primary bracts with sheath tapering to leaf-like apex c. 2 mm long; each pseudanthium with 2-4 female flowers	<i>Centrolepis fascicularis</i> ST
	Annual; primary bracts with sheath abruptly contracted into a mucro c. 0.5 mm long; each pseudanthium with 4-7 female flowers	<i>Centrolepis strigosa</i> ACT, ST
3	Leaves distichous; both bracts of the head with long leaf-like laminas	<i>Centrolepis aristata</i>
	Leaves not distichous; only outer bract with a leaf-like lamina	4
4	Pseudanthia 1-3 per head	<i>Centrolepis polygyna</i>
	Pseudanthia usually 4-10 per head (rarely 3)	5
5	Leaf lamina straight, lax; bract lamina no longer than the head; plant softly herbaceous	<i>Centrolepis glabra</i>
	Leaf lamina recurved, rigid; bract lamina longer than the head; leaves	<i>Centrolepis eremica</i>

	wiry; bract bases hardened	
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Centrolepis fascicularis

Description: Perennial herb forming dense cushions 3-20 cm diam. Leaves numerous, obscurely distichous; sheath with multicellular hairs, margins hyaline; lamina 8-45 mm long, c. 0.8 mm wide, glabrous or with scattered hairs. Scape terete, 2-6 cm long, glabrous; head ovoid, c. 3 mm long, 3-4 mm wide. Primary bracts subopposite, gaping, subequal; bracts with sheath tapering to a glabrous leaf-like apex c. 2 mm long; sheath herbaceous with narrow-hyaline margins, hairy. Pseudanthia 7-14, bisexual; secondary bracts 2 per pseudanthium, c. 3 mm long, hyaline, usually truncate; female flowers 2-4 per pseudanthium. Seeds ovoid, c. 0.5 mm long.

Flowering: Nov.-Feb.

Distribution and occurrence: Grows in coastal swamps to alpine peat bogs, occurring where the water table is high; widespread on the coast and tablelands. NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST. Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. ?W.A. S.A.

Centrolepis strigosa* subsp. *strigosa

Description: Annual tufted herb 2-11 cm high. Leaves numerous, radiating, sheath with multicellular hairs, margins hyaline; lamina 7-30 mm long, c. 0.4 mm wide, hairs erect, rarely glabrous. Scape terete, 1-10 cm long, glabrous or with fine hairs; heads ovoid, 3-4 mm long, 2-4 mm wide. Primary bracts separated by 1-2 mm long internode, gaping, subequal; bracts with sheath abruptly contracted into glabrous mucro c. 0.5 mm long; sheath herbaceous with narrow-hyaline margins, hairy. Pseudanthia 10-20, bisexual; secondary bracts 2 (or 3) per pseudanthium, 2-2.5 mm long, hyaline, usually truncate, erose, with additional secondary bracts between pseudanthia. Female flowers 4-8 per pseudanthium. Seeds ovoid, c. 0.5 mm long.

Flowering: Sept.-Nov.

Distribution and occurrence: Grows in heath, scrub, mallee, woodland and sclerophyll forest on sand or infertile soils; mostly east and north of the A.C.T., but recorded in scattered localities west to Deniliquin. NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST, NWS, CWS, SWS, NWP, SWP. Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. W.A. S.A.

CHORDIFEX

Description: Description to be provided

Distribution and occurrence: Endemic to Australia; about 20 species; 2 spp in NSW

	Key to the genus <i>Chordifex</i> – but also included in <i>Baloskion</i> key above	
1	Sheaths lax, open and spreading almost from the base; flowering branches very often flexuous; male spikelets ovoid, female narrow	<i>Chordifex dimorphus</i>
	Sheaths closely appressed; flowering branches erect, straight; spikelets in both sexes narrow	<i>Chordifex fastigiatus</i> ST

Chordifex fastigiatus

Description: Dioecious perennial herb; rhizome shortly creeping. Culms 30–100 cm high, 1–2 mm diam. Sheaths closely appressed, dark red-brown, 0.5–2 mm long, glabrous, apex truncate to acute; lamina absent. Flowering branches erect, straight. Spikelets in both sexes narrow. Spikelets c. 4–7 mm long, dark red-brown, solitary in the axils of the subtending bracts; bracts sometimes nearly as long as the spikelets. Male spikelets several-flowered, ellipsoid, glumes mucronate. Male tepals 6; stamens 3. Female spikelets 1-flowered, narrow-ellipsoid, glumes with longer mucros than male. Female tepals 6; staminodes 3, minute.

Distribution and occurrence: in sandy, usually shallow soils, often poorly drained or in successional stages over sandstone rock surfaces; from the Budawang Ra. to Gosford. NSW subdivisions: CC, SC, CT, ST. Other Australian states: Qld

EMPODISMA

Description: Dioecious perennial herbs, tufted or rhizome shortly creeping. **Culms** green, thin and wiry, branched and often flexuous, bearing distant persistent **sheaths** with a small rudimentary lamina. **Male and female inflorescences** not very different. **Male spikelets** several together, rarely solitary, several flowered. **Female spikelets** solitary, 1-flowered. **Male tepals** 6, membranous; stamens 3; anthers 1-locular. **Female tepals** 6 or 4; staminodes absent; ovary 1-locular; style branches 2 or 3. **Fruit** an ovoid, pale, smooth, nut.

Distribution and occurrence: World: 2 species, Australia, & New Zealand. Australia: 2 species (1 species endemic), Qld, N.S.W. Vic., Tas., S.A.

Empodisma minus

Description: Dioecious perennial herb, tufted, rhizome ascending. Culms green, semi-terete, wiry, much-branched and usually slightly flexuous, 15-200 cm long, c. 1 mm diam. near the base, erect when short, procumbent (or even pendent over rocks) when longer. Sheaths 5.5-12 mm long, greenish, closely appressed, axillary hairs present; lamina strongly reflexed, subulate, 1-6.5 mm long. Male spikelets axillary, solitary and sessile, or 2 or 3 together, 1 sessile and the other(s) shortly pedicellate, few-flowered, 4-7 mm long; glumes mucronate. Male flowers: anthers exerted on slender filaments. Female spikelets solitary in the upper axils, sessile, 1-flowered, c. 5.5-7.5 mm long; glumes mucronate to acuminate. Female flowers: styles exerted and recoiled. Fruit c. 2 mm long, sessile on a thickened receptacle.

Distribution and occurrence: Common in bogs, swampy places, and on wet creek banks, from sea level to alpine bogs, always in acid soils, also on wet cliffs in mountainous districts, sometimes forming thick, tangled masses. NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST. Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. S.A.

LEPTOCARPUS

Description: Dioecious perennial herbs, tufted or with a hard creeping rhizome. **Culms** simple or branched, leafless except for the sheaths which are usually closely appressed and may bear a rudimentary lamina. **Male and female inflorescences** nearly similar or very dissimilar. **Spikelets** in both sexes with a number of flowers or, rarely, 1-flowered in the female [the latter sometimes irregularly aggregated into compound spikelets]; **glumes** imbricate; bracteoles absent [or sometimes present in the female]. **Tepals** usually 6, rarely 5 or 4, unequal, the 2 exterior slightly longer and keeled. **Male stamens** 3, rarely 2; anthers oblong, 1-locular, attached near the base; filaments short. **Female staminodia** 3 and small, or absent; ovary 1-locular, triquetrous, with a single ovule; style branches 3, rarely 2. **Fruit** a small nut.

Distribution and occurrence: World: 14-25 species, Malesia, Australia, New Zealand, & Chile. Australia: 14-22 species (12 species endemic), all States.

Leptocarpus tenax

Description: Dioecious perennial herb; rhizome shortly creeping, 4-7 mm diam. Culms erect, straight, mostly unbranched up to the inflorescence, mostly 50-130 cm high, 1-2 mm diam., greyish green with a covering of closely appressed, scale-like trichomes. Leaves with sheath closely appressed, brown, striate, obtuse or sometimes acuminate; lamina, erect, reduced. Male inflorescence panicle-like, loose, drooping terminal; spikelets numerous, pedicellate, several-flowered, oblong-ovoid, acute, 3-5 mm long, c. 1 mm diam.; glumes dark brown. Male flowers

flattened: tepals 6; anthers on very short filaments. Female spikelets simple, either solitary and terminal or several shortly pedicellate, in a terminal raceme or narrow panicle, erect, oblong to cylindrical, becoming turbinate, 10-17 mm long, several-flowered; glumes red-brown. Female flowers flattened; tepals 4; ovary oblong-linear; style branches 3. Fruit 1-3 mm long, narrow, pale. **Distribution and occurrence:** in damp to wet heaths and sedgelands; coastal districts and inland to the Blue Mtns and Torrington. NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST. Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. W.A. S.A.

LEPYRODIA

Description: Dioecious or monoecious perennial herbs, tufted or rhizome creeping. **Culms** green, erect or rarely scrambling, terete or slightly compressed, simple or branched, with persistent sheathing scales, crowded and imbricate at base but distant or absent on the aerial portion. **Leaves** with lamina reduced to a small linear or terete lamina or absent. **Inflorescence** either terminal and + loosely paniculate or spike-like, or the partial inflorescences axillary and clustered. **Male and female inflorescences** when separate not very different. **Flowers** not in definite spikelets. **Glumes** not or scarcely imbricate; bracteoles 1 or 2 beneath each flower. **Tepals** 6, glume-like and rigid or thin and almost hyaline, acute, usually longer than the glumes. **Male stamens** 3; filaments free; anthers 1-locular. **Female staminodes** usually 3; ovary 3-angular, 3-locular, with one ovule in each loculus; styles 3, filiform. **Fruit** a capsule, 3-locular, opening at the angles. **Seed** globose or ellipsoidal.

Distribution and occurrence: World: c. 26 species, endemic Australia. Australia: all States.

Three species have been moved from this genus to *Sporadanthus* (q.v.) since Flora of NSW vol. 4 was published in hard-copy.

Taxa not yet included in identification key

Lepyrodia cryptica, *Lepyrodia oligocolea*, *Lepyrodia verruculosa*

Key to the genus <i>Lepyrodia</i>		
1	Flowers not in widely separated clusters, inflorescence panicle-like or small, narrow and spike-like; cauline sheaths not as below	2
	Flowers in clusters which are either distant along the rachis of the inflorescence or, more rarely, few or solitary at the apex of the culm, each cluster in the axil of a broad bract; cauline sheaths appressed except where subtending a branch, 5–15 mm long, bearing a small to long (towards the base), terete or flat, usually reflexed but caducous lamina, 1–27 mm long	<i>Sporadanthus interruptus</i>
2	Sheaths confined to the base of the culm or 1 or 2 on the aerial part of the culm	<i>Lepyrodia anarthria</i> ST
	Cauline sheaths present, 3 or more on each culm	3
3	Sheaths all loose and open	4
	Some or all of the sheaths on the culm closely appressed, except where subtending a branch; plants monoecious or dioecious	5
4	Rhizome shortly creeping or plant tufted; culm internodes 3–6; culms usually 35–90 cm high, 0.8–1.8 mm diam	<i>Lepyrodia scariosa</i> ST
	Rhizome usually long creeping; culm internodes 6–12; culm internodes 6–12; culms usually 70–110 cm long and c. 1.2–2.8 mm diam	<i>Lepyrodia imitans</i>

5	Culms 0.5–0.9 mm diam., thin and wiry, 15–50 cm high, the surface mostly minutely wrinkled or pitted	<i>Lepyrodia leptocaulis</i>
	Culms usually 1–3 mm in diam., 50–200 cm high, the surface smooth for the most part	6
6	Outer and inner tepals about equal in length or the outer slightly longer, whitish or straw-coloured; bracts and glumes persistent, often conspicuous	7
	Outer tepals shorter than the inner, not exceeding 2.3 mm long; inner tepals reddish when fresh; bracts and glumes very thin, soon breaking up, inconspicuous	<i>Sporadanthus gracilis</i> ST
7	Culms not exceeding 2 mm diam. over all at the base, 0.1–1.0 cm apart on the rhizome, c. 40–75 cm high	<i>Lepyrodia muelleri</i>
	Culms up to 5 mm diam. over all at the base, often 2–2.5 cm apart on the rhizome, 55–200 cm high, erect or scrambling	<i>Sporadanthus caudatus</i>

Lepyrodia anarthria

Description: Dioecious perennial herb, densely tufted or rhizome shortly creeping. Culms unbranched, often numerous, thin and weak, c. 0.8–2 mm diam., or if stouter then fewer and often compressed, c. 30–80 cm high. Sheaths absent from the aerial portion of the culm or if present, not more than 2. Inflorescence sparse to dense, erect, terminal, often narrow and spike-like. Male inflorescence c. 10–35 mm long. Female inflorescence usually 10–40(–65) mm long. Tepals of male flowers lanceolate to narrow ovoid, acuminate, glabrous, yellow-brown, outer tepals 2.8–3.8 mm long, inner tepals 2.4–3.2 mm long; female tepals similar but slightly larger. Fruit 0.7–2 mm long.

Distribution and occurrence: in or near swamps and in wet or damp peaty soils; in the Sydney region and inland to Goulburn. NSW subdivisions: CC, SC, NT, CT, ST. Other Australian states: Qld Vic. N.T.

Lepyrodia cryptica

Description: Dioecious, forming diffuse patches of clusters of culms joined by rhizomes. Rhizome creeping, c. 5 mm diam.; scales red-brown, scariosus, extending to c. 4 cm up the culm. Culms usually closely spaced, occasionally to 1 cm apart, erect, terete to slightly flattened, 40–90 cm long, 0.6–1.8 mm diam., smooth to slightly rugose, simple, with branched inflorescence. Sheaths 4 or 5, persistent, 1.5–4.0 cm long, loose, lax or reflexed, usually with inrolled margins, red- to dull-brown, obtuse to truncate; auricles membranous; lamina erect, to c. 5 mm long. Inflorescence 2.5–11 cm long; branches to 4 cm long, moderately crowded with flowers, lower branches spaced further apart on the culm, upper branches more clustered; spathes usually exceeding branches, 1.3–2.0 cm long; bracteoles 2, shorter than the tepals, cuspidate. Male flowers: tepals rigid, yellow-brown, lanceolate; outer tepals longer, 3.2–4.0 mm long; inner tepals 2.9–3.5 mm long; filaments c. 2.0 mm long; anthers c. 2.0 mm long. Female flowers: tepals similar to males; outer tepals 3.0–4.2 mm long; inner tepals 2.5–3.5 mm long. Seeds ellipsoidal, 1.2 mm long, 0.7 mm wide, colliculate with small cells which are prominently ridged.

Distribution and occurrence: Central Tablelands to northern edge of Southern Tablelands, from near Mt Coricudgy (N of Lithgow) south to near Fitzroy Falls and Penrose. On sandy soil in seasonally or permanently damp sites on sandstone, in seepage areas, in heath, shrubland or eucalypt woodland. NSW subdivisions: CC, CT, ST. This can be difficult to distinguish from *L. scariosa* if the seed ornamentation (or the pattern of this imprinted on the inner face of the capsule) is not visible, so male plants may be particularly difficult to distinguish. It generally has a more compact inflorescence with shorter, more abruptly tapered spathes and smaller flowers in both males and females. It appears to hybridise with *L. anarthria* where their ranges overlap.

Lepyrodia scariosa

Description: Dioecious perennial herb, usually tufted or rhizome shortly creeping. Culms c. 35-90 cm high, 0.8-1.8 mm diam.; internodes 3-6. Cauline sheaths loose and open, 3 or more on each culm; aerial sheaths c. 15-30 mm long, glabrous, apex truncate to acute. Inflorescence panicle-like, sometimes small, narrow and spike-like; flowers sparsely arranged on lateral branches, shortly pedicellate. Tepals rigid, lanceolate, glabrous, yellow-brown, 3 outer tepals usually longer than the inner tepals 3.2-4.6 mm long, cuspidate, inner tepals, 2.8-4 mm long, acuminate. Fruit c. 2 mm long.

Distribution and occurrence: in moist sand or peaty soil in heath and woodland and near margins of swamps; on the coast and ranges, north from Jervis Bay and inland to Jenolan Caves area. NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, NT, CT, ST. Other Australian states: Qld

Lepyrodia verruculosa

Description: Dioecious, forming dense clumps or diffuse areas of small tufts connected by rhizomes. Rhizome creeping, c. 5 mm diam.; cataphylls tan-brown, scarios, extending c. 5.5 cm up the culm. Culms closely spaced or up to 1 cm apart along rhizome, erect, flattened (ellipsoid in cross-section), 40-65 cm long, 1.3-2.1 × 0.8-1.5 mm diam., scarcely rough when fresh but asperous and finely tuberculate when dry, simple; lowest internode long, lowest sheath (2-)5-14 cm above the cataphylls. Sheaths 2 or 3 (rarely 4), persistent, 1.5-4.5 cm long, loose, lax or reflexed, usually with inrolled margins, dull-brown, obtuse to truncate; auricles membranous; lamina erect, to c. 1 cm long. Inflorescence 2.5-19 cm long; branches to 6 cm long and moderately crowded with flowers, lower branches spaced further apart on the culm, upper branches more clustered; spathes usually exceeding branches, 1-3 cm long; bracteoles 2, shorter than the tepals, cuspidate. Male flowers: tepals rigid, yellow-brown, lanceolate; outer tepals longer, 3.0-3.6 mm long; inner tepals 2.5-3.0 mm long; filaments c. 2.5 mm long; anthers 1.7 mm long. Female flowers: tepals similar to males; outer tepals 2.6-3.9 mm long; inner tepals 2.6-3.5 mm long. Seeds ellipsoidal, 1.2 mm long, 0.7 mm wide, colliculate with small circular raised areas.

Distribution and occurrence: From near Thirlmere (SW of Sydney) to Nadgee on the far South Coast; also Tallong and Pigeon House Range. On creek banks or seepage areas in heathland and eucalypt forest, mostly on sandstone. NSW subdivisions: CC, SC, ST. Differs from *L. scariosa* in having fewer culm nodes, flattened and (when dry) finely tuberculate culms, elongated cataphylls, and different seed shape and surface pattern.

SPORADANTHUS

Description: Description and key to species to be provided.

Distribution and occurrence: 3 species in NSW: *Sporadanthus caudatus*, *Sporadanthus gracilis*, *Sporadanthus interruptus*

Sporadanthus gracilis

Description: Dioecious perennial herb; rhizome shortly creeping. Culms c. 30-150 cm high, c. 1-2 mm diam., with few to many branches, surface smooth and glabrous, erect to sprawling. Cauline sheaths closely appressed except where subtending a branch, up to c. 30 mm long, apex usually weathered. Inflorescence terminal, panicle-like, mostly erect though males sometimes slightly flexuous, c. 3.5-10 cm long; male and female flowers similar. Bracts and glumes very thin, soon breaking up, inconspicuous. Outer tepals shorter than the inner, not exceeding 2.3 mm long; inner tepals reddish when fresh to 2.7 mm long. Fruit 1.7-3.5 mm long.

Distribution and occurrence: in wet sandy soil and margins of swamps; chiefly from the Sydney district to Blackheath and the Budawang Ra. NSW subdivisions: CC, SC, CT, ST.