

TETRARIA

Description: Tufted perennials with short rhizome. **Culms** nodeless [or noded]. **Leaves** basal [or also cauline]; blade bristle-like, flat or reduced; ligule mostly absent. **Inflorescence** narrow, panicle-like or reduced to a few spikelets. **Involucral bracts** leaf-like. **Spikelets** several-many, solitary or in clusters, compressed or terete, 1- or 2-,(-4)-flowered, if more than 1 flower then lowest male, upper bisexual. **Rachilla** very short, straight, not produced beyond the upper flower. **Glumes** 4-7, rarely to 12, distichous or subdistichous, the lowest ones (usually 4-6) empty, the upper ones flower-bearing and larger. **Hypogynous bristles** (0-)2-9, filiform, sometimes shortly plumose or antrorsely scabrous. **Stamens** 3, 4, 6 or 8. **Style** 3-, 4-, 6- or 8-fid, thickened towards base, persistent on nut. **Nut** usually trigonous, with style base sometimes conspicuous.

Distribution and occurrence: World: c. 35 species, mostly extra-tropical southern Africa, Australia, Borneo. Australia: 4 species (3 species endemic), all States.

Tetraria capillaris

Description: Loosely tufted perennial with slender rhizome. Culms terete, 1-grooved, smooth, 18-60 cm high, 0.3-1 mm diam. Leaves with filiform blade < 10 mm long; sheath reddish to straw-coloured, striate, papillose between striations, glistening; ligule membranous, with base of blade pubescent. Inflorescence a single spikelet or up to 9 pedicellate spikelets in a loose cluster, drooping or erect, 0.5-4 cm long; involucral bract shorter than to as long as inflorescence. Spikelets terete, usually 1-flowered, rarely 2 or 3 flowers, 4-6 mm long. Glumes long-acute to mucronate, subdistichous, glabrous or ciliolate near apex, mixed red-brown and straw-coloured to greyish with age; lowest 2 or 3 glumes empty, about half length of upper glumes; upper 2-4 glumes 3.5-4 mm long. Hypogynous bristles absent or 4 to 1.5 mm long, flattened to filiform, remaining with inflorescence. Stamens 3; anthers 1.5-2.5 mm long, excluding appendage 0.3-0.5 mm long. Style 3-fid; style base conical, hispidulous, as long as or slightly exceeding body of nut. Nut +/- terete, obovoid to ellipsoid, 1.8-2.5 mm long, 1.0-1.5 mm diam., minutely wrinkled or reticulate, straw-coloured, +/- dull, usually 3-ribbed, with 3 or 4 small disk-like thickenings at base.

Flowering: spring-summer.

Distribution and occurrence: Coastal areas south from Stroud, extending to Blue Mtns and eastern ST (Budawang Ra. and near Bombala). Grows in moist heath to forest, on sandy soils. NSW subdivisions: NC, CC, SC, CT, ST. Other Australian states: Qld Vic. Tas. W.A. S.A.

This name is used in the broad sense. It includes slender and coarse forms, which are currently being studied.



Tetraria capillaris