

**ETYMOLOGY**

(imp-er-AHT-a) After Ferrante Imperato 1550-1625 apothecary of Naples Druggists & physicians; The species cylindrica (sil-LIN-dree-cah) referring to dense cylindrical flowering spike;

LIFEFORM

30cm-1.5m Grass

STATUS

Probably adequately conserved Recorded @ >1789 Locations (Moran, A. 2009);

OCCURS

Brisbane Q, Mebbin N P NSW, North Head, LHI, Bunurong Coastal Res Vic, SA, WA, NT, SE Asia, India (S America, Europe, T Africa, Asia, Australasia, Hawaii, N America)

HABITAT

Coastal Lowlands, Woodland, Ridges, slopes

LEAVES

Blades, 3-100 cm x 2-20 mm, linear to ovate edges with minute sharp teeth tip pointed with tuft of long hairs, midrib is not in the center of the blade; base often narrow & petiole-

FLOWERS

Spikes, 3-30 cm, awnless, enclosed by hairy glumes, Panicle spiciform, linear, Primary panicle branches accrescent to a central axis, with evident branchlets on axis. Racemes internodes filiform bearing few fertile spikelets. Rhachis tough, subterete.

FLOWERING TIMES

Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, March

FRUIT

Grains, 1-1.3 mm, minute, spikelets all pedicelled, numerous each surrounded by long, silky hairs at base;

FRUITING TIMES

Jan, Feb, June, July

BARK

Sharp tipped, white scaly, pungent pointed wiry rhizomes, with tuber-like swellings on lower roots

TRUNK or STEM

Upright stems; Densely tufted perennial, erect spreading colony; newly emerging shoots sharp and stiff to touch;

ETHNOBOTANY

Edible underground roots/stems eaten by Bandcoots, *Rattus lutreolus* (swamp rats); Habitat for reptiles and small marsupials; Fodder stock eats young shoot only; Leaves used as thatch & fibre source; Unpalatable to rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (P. Kubiak); Commonly adventive *Imperata cylindrica* being one of the world's worst weeds; Grazed when young, rhizomatous edible, promoted and stimulated by fire Butterfly Foodplant: *Taractrocera papyria papyria*, *Suniana lascivia lascivia*, *Telicota ancilla ancilla*, *Hypocysta metirius*, *Melanitis leda bankia*, *Xoia arctoa arctoa*; Use in the paper industry; Use to made wreath to poke flowers into for Anzas day;

BEEES**INSECTS**

Telicota ancilla greenish darter, Urabunana sericeivitta, Cicadetta crucifera, Vasdavidius indicus, Mycalesis terminus (orange bush-brown) Creatonotus gangis (tiger moth)

BIRD

Red-backed Wren, Superb fairy wren (Seen)

BUTTERFLY

Arrhenes dschilus, Hypocysta adiante, Melantis leda, Mycalesis sirius, Mycalesis terminus orange bush-brown. Telicota ancilla greenish darter, Dingy Dart, Greenish grass-dart Northern Ringlet, Common Brown Ringlet, Ypthima arctous dingy ring,

INDIGENOUS USES

Underground stems eaten leaves used as thatch and as fibre source; 45

ID FEATURE

Homogeneous group of species allied to Miscanthus, distinguished by the contracted panicle and deficient floral parts (Clayton and Renvoize, 1986)