

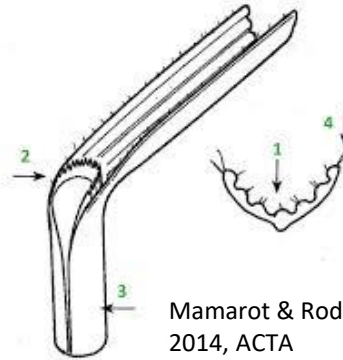
Identification

Vulpia myuros is an annual grass weed, in winter cereals and grasses cultivated with reduced tillage. It is difficult to identify at the vegetative stages, and can be confused with other grass weeds, e.g. *Festuca rubra* and *Lolium* spp. It can thus go relatively unnoticed at early invasion stages.



Vegetative characteristics

- ❖ slender, 20-80 cm tall
- ❖ erect and mostly glabrous culm
- ❖ long fine leaves (1–3 mm wide)
- ❖ tightly folded prefoliation
- ❖ 5–7 pubescent veins with fine hairs (1 and 4)
- ❖ split leaf sheath (3), generally glabrous
- ❖ very short denticulate ligule (2) (0.2–0.4 mm)
- ❖ auricles absent



Mamarot & Rodriguez, 2014, ACTA

Reproductive characteristics

- ❖ **inflorescence:** narrow dense one-sided panicle, curved at maturity
- ❖ 5–35 cm long, green to purplish in colour
- ❖ base often enclosed in the sheath of the uppermost leaf
- ❖ **spikelets (K):** 5–12 mm long
- ❖ short stalks (<1 mm length)
- ❖ lower glume up to 0.4-2.5 mm long and upper glume 2.5–6.5 mm long
- ❖ 3–8 florets
- ❖ lemmas: 4.5–6.5 mm long
- ❖ **straight terminal awns of 5–15 mm length**
- ❖ **fruits:** 3.5–4.5 mm long



Cotton & Stace, 1977, Botaniska Notiser



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Ecology and Life cycle

Ecology

- ❖ self-pollinating
- ❖ highly competitive
- ❖ shallow root system
- ❖ tolerant to
 - ❖ low soil fertility
 - ❖ slightly acidic conditions
 - ❖ drought

Life cycle

- ❖ flowering: May-July
- ❖ high number of seeds produced (1000-2000 per plant)
- ❖ mostly autumn emergence
- ❖ low emergence of buried seeds
- ❖ 1-3 years survival in seed bank

germination					flowering						
S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A



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Vulpia myuros in a no-till wheat field



Information and Contact

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Sources

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