

Botanic name : *Chloris barbata* Sw. -- Fl. Ind. Occid. i. 200. 1797 (IK)

Common name : Purpletop chloris, Swollen fingergrass

Family : Poaceae (Gramineae)

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to tropical America; introduced in tropics of South and South-East Asia as aggressive weeds. The weed has allelopathic potential to inhibit germination of cereal and millet crop seeds

Description : A tufted, erect, annual or short-lived perennial grass, caespitose, largely glabrous, with a short life span, heading and flowering all year round. The erect and branching stems, which are sometimes bent at the base, are smooth and usually flattened. They are purple or pink at the base, simple or branched, 3-5-noded, rooting at the lower nodes, leaves are flat and narrow, linear-lanceolate, usually bluish-green with rough edges, having long, scattered hairs on the upper surface, near the base. The sheaths are smooth and 2-6 cm long; usually less than half as long as the internodes. They are compressed, keeled and closely overlapping, with glabrous or bearded orifice. The ligule is 0.5-1.0 mm long, membraneous and fringed with short hairs; inflorescence terminal, composed of a whorl of 5-15 digitate spikes which are densely clustered, usually ascending, purple and 5-8 cm long with three-flowered spikelets (one fertile flower). These are purplish and densely overlapping, with three slender awns. The glumes are unequal, narrow, acute and membraneous except for a single green nerve. The first is 1-1.5 mm long and the second 2-2.5 mm long. There are almost always three florets which are often purple. The lemmas are three-nerved. The first lemma is obovate, keeled and 2-2.5 mm long, sparsely to densely pilose on the margins and the keel. The awn is 5-10 mm long. The palea is 2-2.5 mm long, nearly as broad as the lemma with marginal keels. The apical rudiment is approximately 1 mm long and consists of two inflated, triangular-truncate, thin, glabrous, sterile lemmas, one within the other, each with an awn 3-5 mm long.

Phytochemicals: Phytosterols, flavonoids, tannins, phenols, carbohydrates, proteins, amino acids, glycosides, proteins, and carboxylic acids

Medicinal/Economic uses : Anti-diabetic, analgesic, antibacterial, anti-hyperlipidemic, Used to treat rheumatism in traditional medicine. The leaf paste is used externally for skin disorders leaves juice used in fever, diarrhea and diabetes.