

Botanic name : *Panicum repens* L. -- Sp. Pl., ed. 2. 1: 87. 1762 [Sep 1762] (IK)

Common name: Torpedograss, creeping panic, panic rampant, couch panicum, wainaku grass, quack grass

Family: Poaceae (Gramineae)

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to India and Africa (possibly) but present in Malaysia, Africa, Sri Lanka, , Burma, Thailand, United States. It is a threatened species according to IUCN red list (restricted in India & Saudi Arabia but becomes widespread in other countries including Australia

Description: A rhizomatous, creeping perennial, rooting at the base; branching rhizomes which are thick and pointed, leaf-blades usually inrolled when dry, with scattered hairs on the upper surface. Inflorescence an open loose panicle long carrying small spikelets, branches ascending, spikelets 3 mm long, 2-flowered pale green/glaucous, sometimes tinged with purple, oblong-ovate, acute or slightly acuminate, 2.5-3 mm long. Lower glume 1-3 nerved, broadly ovate one-fifth to one-third as long as the spikelet, upper glume and lower lemma similar, 7-nerved, as long as the spikelet, upper lemma shorter, pale and glossy, anthers three, yellow-orange, stigmas purple; fruit-caryopsis (seed) lanceolate, pale, white or straw-coloured. acute and gaping at the tip, Fruit glossy white. Young shoots covered by leaf-sheaths (hence "torpedo grass").

Phytochemicals: Alkaloids, Coumarins, Flavonoids, Glycosides, Lignin's, Phenols, Quinones, Saponins, Steroids, Tannins, and Terpenoids.

Medicinal/Economic use : Anti-hyperlipidemic (roots and rhizomes), antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial activities. Used in soil stabilization projects