

Botanic name : *Brachiaria reptans*(L.)Gardner & Hubbard

Common name: Running grass, Creeping panic grass

Family: Poaceae (Gramineae)

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution: Kenya; also from United Republic of Tanzania, tropical Asia and introduced throughout the tropics; extensive grazing and unsustainable exploitation for medicinal use has become a common threat to this herb

Description: Decumbent annual herb, 15-60 cm high rooting at nodes. Leaf-blades ovate-lanceolate. Inflorescence of 5-16 cm racemes on an axis; racemes with a triquetrous rachis. Spikelets, glabrous, narrowly ovate, borne in pairs and crowded on the rachis; Fertile spikelets: Spikelets comprising 1 basal sterile florets; 1 fertile floret; without rhachilla extension. Spikelets elliptic, or oblong; dorsally compressed; compressed slightly; acute; 1.5-2.2 mm long; falling entire.

Phytochemicals: Steroidal saponins, sapogenins, besides alkaloids, Coumarins, Flavonoids, Glycosides, Lignins, Phenols, Quinones, Tannins, and Terpenoids.

Medicinal/Economic uses : Fodder, Leaf juice used in Anaemia. Leaf extracts reportedly showed antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial activities.