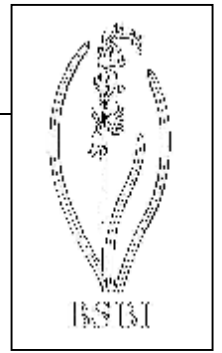


Plant Crib



Puccinellia distans

The two subspecies of *P. distans* (Jacq.) Parl. have been reviewed by Trist & Butler (1995), and can be distinguished at maturity as follows:

	Subsp. <i>distans</i>	Subsp. <i>borealis</i> (Holmb.) W. E. Hughes
Culms	Usually erect or spreading, branched, to 60 cm tall	Procumbent, spreading or erect, sometimes branched, 5-30(-40) cm tall
Leaves	Usually flattened, 4-14 cm long × 1.5-4 mm wide	Usually folded, 2-8(-12) cm long × 0.2-0.5 mm wide
Panicles at or after anthesis	Grey-green, to 20 cm long, branches usually reflexed at maturity	Yellow-green, 2-12 cm long with groups of spikelets interrupted; branches and pedicels scabrous, usually erect

Characters which may help to pick it out in the field are the panicle length of subsp. *borealis* is about half that of subsp. *distans*, and the uppermost cauline leaf is situated near the base of the panicle and is long in relation to it, often exceeding it (uppermost stem leaf well below the base of the panicle and short in subsp. *distans*). The ligule, glume and anther characters of Trist & Butler (1995) show almost complete overlap in material at **NMW**.

Subsp. *borealis* is scattered around the coast of Scotland from Wigtownshire (V.c. 74) to Holy Island (V.c. 68) usually in rock fissures adjacent to the sea and within tidal wash. There is one record from Ireland.

Reference Trist, P. J. O. & Butler, J. K. (1995). *Watsonia* **20**: 391-396.

Author P. J. O. Trist^U, 1992, updated T. C. G. Rich 2012.