



ALOPECURUS GENICULATUS* / *A. PLETTKEI* / *A. BULBOSUS

The hybrid *A. × plettkei* is variable and must be identified using a combination of characters in the Table. Hybrids are rarely intermediate, often being more like one parent or the other. In the field *A. geniculatus*-like hybrids can be more leafy and with more leaves and nodes than either parent, but *A. bulbosus*-like hybrids are less distinctive. A hybrid index scoring scheme, which may be useful for difficult cases, is given by Trist & Wilkinson (1989). The hybrid has been recorded in V.c. 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16, 22, 25, 44 and 54 and it is likely to be elsewhere. *A. bulbosus* is itself probably under-recorded (Trist 1981; FitzGerald 1989); the slender inflorescences show up well in swards in May in damp brackish turf, winter-wet hollows and ditches.

References FitzGerald, R. (1989). *Watsonia* **17**: 425-428.
Trist, P. J. O. (1981). *Watsonia* **13**: 313-316.
Trist, P. J. O. & Wilkinson, M. J. (1989). *Watsonia* **17**: 301-308.

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Plant Crib

	<i>A. bulbosus</i> Gouan	<i>A. × plettkei</i> Mattf.	<i>A. geniculatus</i> L.
Culm	Erect, 11-29 cm long	Erect to spreading, (15-) 18-77(-93) cm long	Spreading, geniculate, 15-38 cm long
Nodes per culm	1-4(-5)	(2-)4-13	2-6(-8)
Rooting culm	Absent	Absent or present	Absent or present
Basal internode swelling (note 1)	(1-)2-4.5(-6.0) mm	(0-)0.5-2.2 mm	(-0.5-)0-1.0(-1.5) mm
Basal internode length	0.4-2 cm	0.6-33 cm	10-35 cm
'Twin' basal swollen internodes (note 2)	Present or absent	Usually absent	Absent
Cauline leaves	Infolded, 0.5-3.5 mm wide	Usually flat, 0.7-4.5mm wide	Flat, 0.7-5.0 mm wide
Ligule	1.6-4.0 mm	1.8-4.5 mm	2.0-5.5 mm
Panicle length	1.3-4.4(-5.4) cm	1.4-6.3 cm	(2.0-)2.6-5.0 cm
Spikelet length	2.5-3.3 mm	2.5-3.0 mm	2.0-3.0 mm
Glumes	Lanceolate, acute; short hairs on keel and margins	Lanceolate, acute to obtuse; uneven long and short silky hairs on keel and margins	Lanceolate, obtuse; silky hairs on keel and shorter appressed hairs from middle to base of keel
Awns	(3.4-)4.0-5.3(-6.5) mm long, exceeding glumes by 3-4 mm	(3.0-)4.5-5.5 mm long, exceeding glumes by 1.0-3.5 mm	3.0-4.5(-5.0) mm long, exceeding glumes by 0.8-1.7 mm
Lemma	Hairy at tip	Hairs at tip present (often few) or absent	Usually no hairs at tip
Anther length	1.2-2.2 mm	1.0-1.5 mm	0.8-1.7 mm

Notes

1. Difference between basal internode width and stem width (negative numbers imply stem wider).
2. Adjacent basal internodes swollen.