

POACEAE [GRAMINEAE] – GRASS FAMILY

Plant: annuals or perennials

Stem: jointed stem is termed a culm – internodial stem most often hollow but always solid at node, mostly round, some with stolons (creeping stem) or rhizomes (underground stem)

Root: usually fibrous, often very abundant and dense

Leaves: mostly linear, sessile, parallel veins, in 2 ranks (vertical rows), leaf sheath usually open or split and often overlapping, but may be closed

Flowers: small in 2 rows forming a spikelet (1 to several flowers), may be 1 to many spikelets with pedicels or sessile to stem; each flower within a spikelet is between an outer lemma (bract, with a midrib) and an inner palea (bract, 2-nerved or keeled usually) – these 3 parts together make the floret – the 2 bottom bracts of the spikelet do not have flowers and are termed glumes (may be reduced or absent), the rachilla is the axis that hold the florets; sepals and petals absent; 1-6 but often 3 stamens; 1 pistil, 1-3 but usually 2 styles, ovary superior, 1 ovule – there are exceptions to most everything!!

Fruit: seed-like grain (seed usually fused to the pericarp (ovary wall) or not)

Other: very large and important family; Monocotyledons Group

Genera: 600+ genera; locally many genera

2 slides per species

POACEAE [GRAMINEAE] – BRACHYELYTREAE TRIBE

Bearded Shorthusk [Wood Grass]; *Brachyelytrum erectum* (Schreb. Ex Spreng.) P. Beauv. –
Brachyelytreae (Tribe)

Bearded Shorthusk [Wood Grass] - p1



Brachyelytrum erectum (Schreb. ex Spreng.) P. Beauv.

Poaceae (Grass Family); Brachyelytreae (Tribe)
Alley Springs Area, Shannon County, Missouri

Notes: Plant perennial, erect to ascending, up to 1 m (usually shorter); Culm terete, glabrous to hairy, downward hairs at nodes; Roots fibrous, with rhizomes; Leaf Blades glabrous, to 2 cm wide; Leaf Sheaths mostly glabrous to somewhat hairy; Ligules membranous; Inflorescence a panicle; Spikelets few, (to 1+ cm excluding awns) on pedicels; single fertile floret; lower glume very small or absent, upper glume small (to 1+ mm); Lemma to 1.4+ mm, curling around slightly smaller palea, lemma awn to 3+ cm; forests usually; summer
[V Max Brown, 2013]



Nodes with downward pointed hairs

Ligule membranous



Bearded Shorthusk [Wood Grass] - p2

Brachyelytrum erectum (Schreb. Ex Spreng.) P. Beauv.

[V Max Brown, 2013]

Spikelets with 1 floret, Lemma with awn up to 3+ cm



11 mm



Palea

Lemma hispid, curls around palea



Upper glume small, lower glume even smaller or absent



Inflorescence somewhat curved, spikelets few and appressed to axis