

*Apera spica-venti* (L.) P. Beauv. (*Poaceae*)

**SPIKELET**

Single floret spikelet that disarticulates below the floret (glumes remain attached to the plant)

**FLORET**

**General shape:** lanceolate

**Normal size:** (1.6) 2.0 – 2.5 (3.0) mm long x ca. 0.5 mm wide

**Color:** dark straw colored to brown

**Texture:** lemma with short stiff hairs in the upper half, especially near apex

**Distinguishing features:** lemma in-rolled, concealing the palea; callus blunt, glabrous or sparsely hairy; rachilla about 0.5 mm long; palea +/- equal in length to lemma; awn sub-apical, 5.0 – 12.0 mm long

**CARYOPSIS**

**General shape:** oblong, longitudinally grooved on ventral surface

**Normal size :** 1.0 – 1.5 mm long x ca. 0.5 mm wide

**Color :** reddish-yellow

**Texture:** smooth and glabrous; style base usually remaining attached at apex

**Embryo:** ca. 1/3 the length of caryopsis

**Endosperm:** soft to semi-liquid

**Hilum:** basal, ovate

Description by Deborah Meyer  
California Department of Food & Agriculture



*Apera spica-venti* florets and caryopses.



Floret in palea view (top) showing the rachilla (1) and lemma view (bottom) showing the callus (2).



Caryopsis in dorsal view (left) and ventral view (right). Embryo (3), hilum (4), style base (5), and piece of lemma attached at base of caryopsis (6).

Images by Jim Effenberger & Deborah Meyer