Click through the key on-line at

WWW.naturescene.net/Poaceae

indexpoaceae.html

Family: POACEAE

the grasses

Version française téléchargable sur

DAVID DICKENSON of NATURESCENE david@naturescene.net

Simplified and partial key to the grasses of the Parc National des Cévennes

Allows identification of the genera, and often the individual species

Follows the approach of 'La Flore de la France méditerranéenne continentale' (2014)

(The Conservatoire Botanique of our region, shown in pale green on the map)

All the genera of our region have been noted,

those within the National Park (darker green) with description and drawing.



The author is somewhat a beginner for this complex group, and invites you to join him in discovering a world that is often overlooked.

Mode of use:

STAGE 1: Familarise yourself with the anatomy and vocabulary of grasses (next page)



STAGE 2: Determine the Group (I-X) by examining the flower head



STAGE 3: Determine the genus, by using the key of this Group



STAGE 4: Determine the species, if this has not already been done in Stage 3, by using another guide

Recommended as the most comprehensive for our region, with a key (in French):

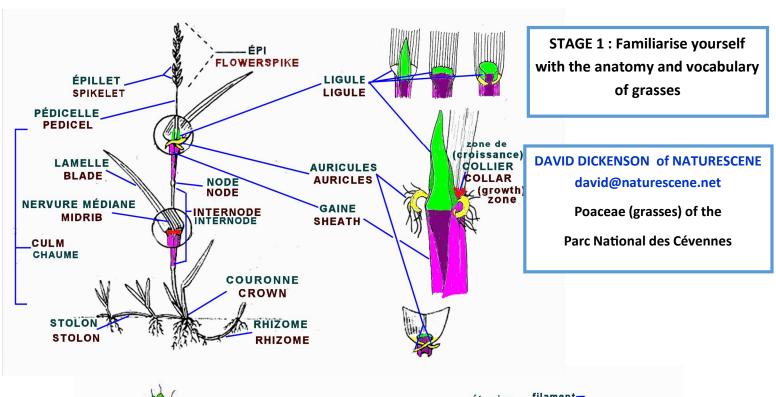
'La Flore de la France méditerranéenne continentale' (2014)

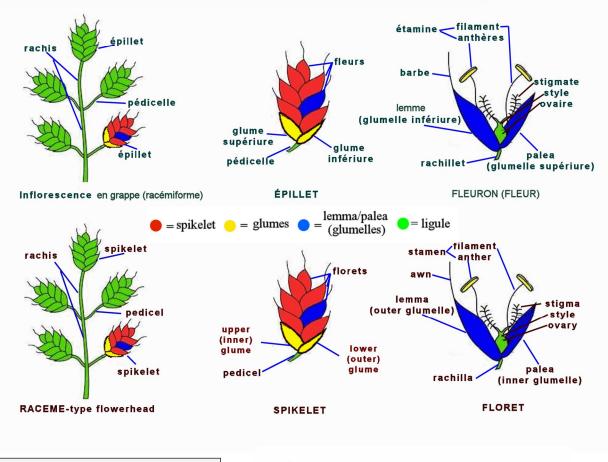
See also (comprehensive coverage only for the Causses), with a key (in French):

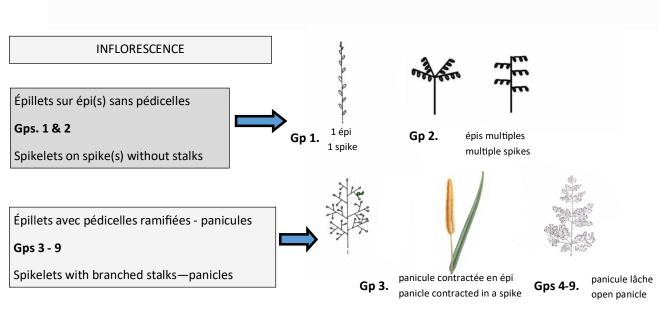
Flore des Causses Christian Bernard (2008)

My site 'Flowers of the Cévennes' is pretty pathetic for grasses in early 2017, but the intention is to add many detailed photos in the months to come (without a key, but in taxonomic order).

www.naturescene.net







STAGE 2: Determine the Group (I-X) by examining the flower head

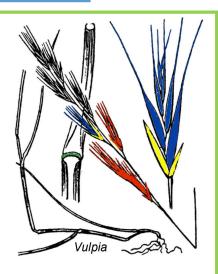
Group I Single spike:

pedicels absent or very short

(80 species, 37 in our area)

Cynosurus, Taeniatherum, Hordeum, Hordelymus, Gaudinia, Psilurus, Nardus, Mibora, Brachypodium, Vulpia, Micropyrum, Lolium, Elytrigia, Aegilops (Triticum), Heteropogon, Pennisetum, Cenchrus, Elymus





Group II 2+ spikes from main axis:

pedicels absent or very short

(19 species, 4 in our area)

Elousine, Aeluropus, Sclerochloa, **Echinochloa**, Paspalum, **Digitaria**, Stenotophrum, Andropogon, Hyparrhenia, **Bothriochloa**, Spartina, Moorochloa, **Cynodon**

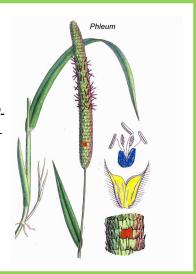


Group III Compact panicle forming a spike:

cylindrical, oval or spherical

(63 species, 27 in our area)

Echinaria, Phalaris, (Cynosurus—voir groupe I), Tragus, Setaria, Sesleria, Rostraria, Koeleria, Dactylis, Anthoxsanthum, Polypogon, Gastridium, Phleum, Alopecurus, Pennisetum, Imperata, Lagurus, Sporobolus (voir groupe V), Crypsis, Ammophila,

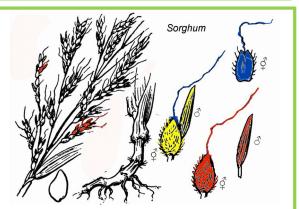


Group IVa: Loose panicle, fertile spikelets mixed with sterile or male spikelets:

Terminal axes articulated and fragile at maturity

(5 species, 1 in our area)

Lamarckia, Chrysopogon, Sorghum halepense



Group IV: Loose panicle, one fertile (hermaphrodite) floret, other florets sterile or male i.e. 3+ glumelles (sometimes reduced to scales):

(14 species, 10 in our area)

Oryza, Phalaris (aussi groupe III, q.v.), Hierochloe, Saccharum, Arrhenatherum, Panicum, Melica,

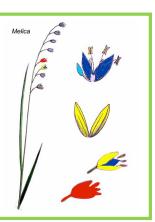
Holcus,

= spikelet = glumes







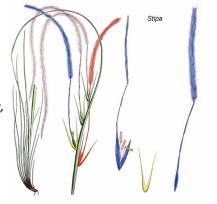


Group V: Loose panicle, one fertile (hermaphrodite) floret

no other sterile i.e only 1-2 glumelles developed

(34 species, 16 in our area)

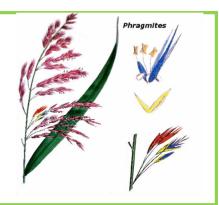
Leersia, Oryza (also III, q.v.), Macrochloa, Nassella, <u>Stipa, Calamagrostis</u>, Agrostis, Jarava, **Piptatherum (**incl. **Oloptum)**, **Achnatherum**, Apera, **Sporobolus**, **Milium**, Polypogon



Group VIa: Loose panicle, 2+ fertile (hermaphrodite) florets, each surrounded by long white hairs, giving a silky panicle:

(3 species, 1 in our area)

Arundo, Phragmites australis



Group VI: Loose panicle, 2+ (fertile) hermaphrodite florets, hairy ligule: spikelets almost always without awns:

(12 species, 11 in our area)

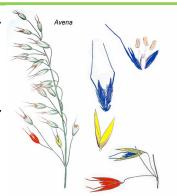
Danthonia, Schismus, Eragrostis, Molinia, Kengia



Group VII: Loose panicle, 2+ fertile (hermaphrodite) florets, membranous ligule, dorsal awn (not all in *Vententata*) Very long glumes

(34 species, 16 in our area)

Antinoria (Aira), Ventenata, Pseudarrhenatherum, <u>Avena,</u> Helictotrichon, **Helictochloa** (=Avenula), **Avenula, Corynephorus, Aira, Deschampsia, Trisetum**



Group VIII: Loose panicle, 2+ fertile (hermaphrodite) florets, membranous ligule, awn terminal/sub-terminal/absent; very long glumes

(3 species, 0 in our area)

Melica (see group IV), Avellinia, Airopsis

Group IX: Loose panicle, 2+ fertile (hermaphrodite) florets, membranous ligule, absent or terminal/sub-terminal awn; short glumes:

(97 species, 53 in our area)

Dactylis, Briza, Bromus (incl. Bromopsis, Ceratochloa et Anisthanta), Ampelodesmos, (Vulpia – see group I), <u>Festuca</u> (incl. Patzkia), Sphenopus, Glyceria, Cutandia, Poa, Catabrosa, Puccinellia, Drymochloa, Catapodium, Schedonorus





Group X Grasses with unusual sexuality

- Grasses with mini-plants in place of florets
- Grasses with apparently no flowers
- Grasses with separate male and female flowers on the same plant (monoecious)
- Grasses with separate male and female flowers on different plants (dioecious)

STAGE 3: Determine the genus, after determining the Group

Simplified and partial key to the grasses of the Parc National des Cévennes

Family: POACEAE

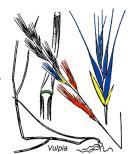
DAVID DICKENSON of NATURESCENE david@naturescene.co.uk

Group I Single spike:

pedicels absent or very short



(80 species, 37 in our area) *Cynosurus, Taeniatherum, Hordeum, Hordelymus, Gaudinia, Psilurus, Nardus, Mibora, Brachypodium, Vulpia, <u>Micropyrum, Lolium, (Schedondorus), Elytrigia, Aegilops (Triticum),</u>
Heteropogon, Pennisetum, Cenchrus, <i>Catopodium* (see groupeIX), Elytrigia, **Elymus**

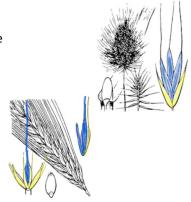


Main species in the Cévennes:

1. a) Each node carries **2-4 spikelets**, which are grouped in 2 rows.

Cynosurus spp.: P. & A. Inflorescence unilateral, fertile spikelets, and at the exterior, sterile spikelets (acting for protection), both with several florets

Hordeum: A. & (P.) inflorescence in a dense distichous spike, 3 spikelets for each node, carrying one floret (sometimes a second aborted); middle florets -> glumes with short awns and lemmas with long terminal awns

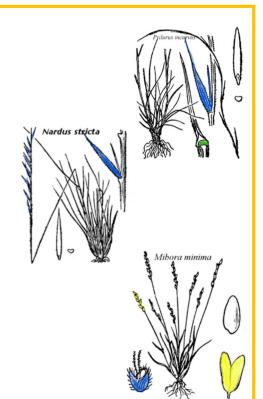


1. b) Each node carries 1 spikelet and a single floret

Psilurus incurvus A. Lemmas with a long **sub-terminal** awn; lemma much shorter that the inter-node. No lower glume.

Nardus stricta P. Lemmas with a long **terminal** awn; lemma much longer that the inter-node. No glumes. Spikelets inserted alternately in 2 rows along the axis

Mibora minima A. Lemmas not pointed (without a terminal awn); glumes hide the florets



Main species in the Cévennes: Group 1 cont./:



1. c) Each node bears 1 spikelet with several fertile florets

1. c) i. 1 single glume, apart from the terminal spikelet;

Lolium spp. (incl. Schedonorus) P. & (A.) solid axis, inflorescence a dense distichous spike. Auricles at the base of the leaf blades

1.c) ii 2 small but equal glumes

Micropyrum tenellum A. 2 equal glumes longly overtaken by several florets; solid axis, inflorescence in a lax distichous spike





1.c) iii 2 small unequal glumes

Vulpia A. glumes longly overtaken by the 3-12 florets; lemmas with **long terminal awns**; **spike unilateral** (normamally, in our area)



Brachypodium P. & (A.) short glumes with many florets; lemmas with terminal awns, +/- long; caryopsis velvety at the summit, spike neither unilateral nor distiquous





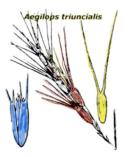
Gaudinia fragilis Lemmas with a dorsal bent awn; spike distichous



1.c) iv 2 longish equal glumes, spikes distichous

Supplementary awns surrounding the glumes Aegilops spp. (Triticum following FlorMed) A. Ligule often with 2 hairyauricles, axis deformed, supplementary awns often long, glumes themselves with shorter awns, glumelles toothed or awned

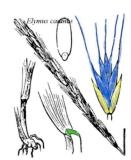
[Triticum spp. include wheat, rye, spelt - none of which are cultivated in our region]



Elytrigia spp. P. Glumes similar in length to the several florets; deformed axis, inflorescence a loose distichous spike, long spreading rhizomes (in our area)



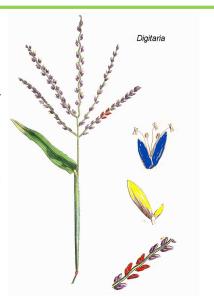
Elymus caninus P. Like *Elytrigia*, but clump-forming, glumes awned and lemmas longly awned



Group II 2+ spikes from main axis:

pedicels absent or very short

(19 species, 4 in our area) Elousine, Aeluropus, Sclerochloa, Echinochloa, Paspalum, Digitaria, Stenotophrum, Andropogon, Hyparrhenia, Bothriochloa, Spartina, Moorochloa, Cynodon



Main species in the Cévennes:

2 a Ligule absent

Echinochloa crus-galli A., unilateral spike-like bunches



2 b Ligule membranous

<u>Digitaria</u> sanguinalis A. spikes with spikelets twinned in two rows; borne on digitate spike-like branches



2 c Ligule hairy

(i) Cynodon dactylon P. spikes with unilateral spikelets; borne on digitate spikelike branches



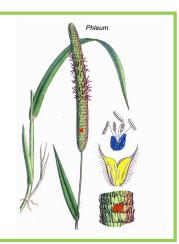
(ii) Bothriochloa ischaemum P. spikelets hairy, twinned, one sterile without an awn, the other fertile with an awn



Group III Compact panicle forming a spike

cylindrical, oval or spherical

(63 species, 27 in our area) *Echinaria, Phalaris, (Cynosurus*—see group I), *Tragus, Setaria, Sesleria, Rostraria, Koeleria, Dactylis, Anthoxsanthum, Polypogon, Gastridium, Phleum, Alopecurus, Pennisetum, Imperata, Lagurus, Sporobolus* (see group V), *Crypsis, Ammophila*,



Main species in the Cévennes:

III. a) Inflorescences in characteristic shape

Echinaria capitata A. Inflorescence like a sea-urchin,

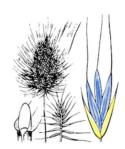


Phalaris spp. A. & P. Spikelets with 1 floret (hidden by the glumes), 2 sterile florets, scale-like



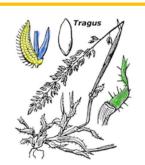


(Cynosurus spp. A. & P. —see group I), spikelets with several florets



III. c) Spikelets all hermaphrodite and fertile: ligules with hairs

Tragus racemosus A. Upper glume short, with hooked hairs; ligules hairy



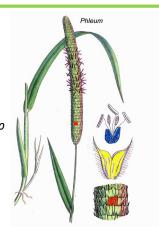
Setaria spp. A. Peduncles (not the spikelets) with long silky awns. Ligules hairy. 2 florets (1 sterile, 1 fertile) hidden by the upper glume.



Group III cont:/ Compact panicle forming a spike

cylindrical, oval or spherical

63 species, 27 in our area) *Echinaria, Phalaris, (Cynosurus—see gp. I), Tragus, Setaria, Trisetum* (also group VII), *Sesleria, Rostraria, Koeleria, Dactylis, Anthoxsanthum, Polypogon, Gastridium, <u>Phleum,</u> Alopecurus, Pennisetum, Imperata, Lagurus, Sporobolus (see gp. V), Crypsis, Ammophila,*



Main species in the Cévennes: III cont./

III.d) Spikelets with several hermaphrodite florets: ligules without hairs

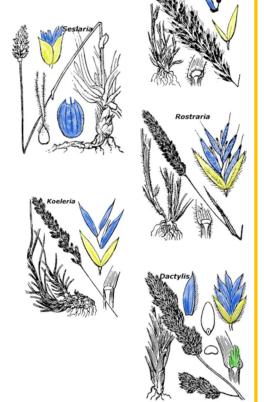
Trisetum flavescens P. Lemmas with a bent dorsal awn

Sesleria caerulea P. Lemmas with 3 terminal awns

Rostraria cristata A. Lemmas with 1 short, sub-terminal awn

Koeleria spp. P. Lemmas apiculate (ending in a short sharp point)

Dactylis glomerata (voir groupe IX) P. Lemmas with a short awn. Inflorescence unilateral. Glumes and glumelles with a ciliated keel.



III. e) Spikelets containing a single hermaphrodite floret (+/- sterile florets); ligules without hairs

Anthoxsanthum spp. P. Spikelet with a single hermaphrodite floret, hidden by 2 sterile florets, with a long awn on the back

Polypogon spp. A. Panicle silky, due to glumes with long silky awns (deciduous). Glumes very ciliated at the summit.

Gastridium ventricosum A. Glumes unequal, swollen at the base, lemmas +/- awn

<u>Phleum spp.</u> P. & (A.) Glumes keeled, ciliated on the keel, awned and not fused, paleas with a thin membrane and 2-toothed (not silky, no awn)

Alopecurus spp. P. & A. Glumes keeled, fused at the base, paleas absent (not silky, no awn)



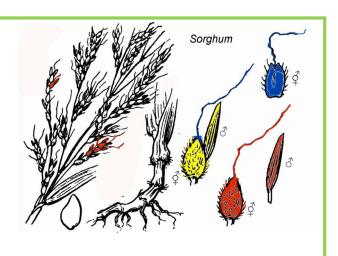


Group IVa: Loose panicle, fertile spikelets mixed with sterile or male spikelets:

Terminal axes articulated and fragile at maturity

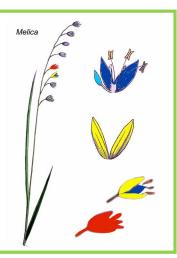
(5 species, 1 in our area) Lamarckia, Chrysopogon, Sorghum halepense





Group IV: Loose panicle, one fertile (hermaphrodite) floret, other florets sterile or male i.e. 3+ glumelles (sometimes reduced to scales):

(14 species, 10 in our area) Oryza, Phalaris (also group III, q.P.), Hierochloe, Saccharum, Arrhenatherum, Panicum, Melica, Holcus,

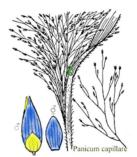


Main species in the Cévennes:

IV. a) Terminal floret hermaphrodite, 1 single male/sterile basal floret, with a well-developed lemma; lvery branched panicle

Arrhenatherum elatius P. Ligules velvety on the back; male floret with a long bent awn; hermaphrodite floret, with a brief awn

Panicum spp. A. Ligules with long hairs; male floret not pointed





IV. b) Basal hermaphrodite flower, followed by 1-2 male/sterile terminal florets; ligules smooth/velvety;

Melica spp. P. Sterile florets forming a terminal head; lemmas non-awned

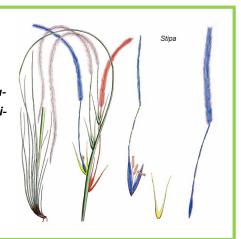
Holcus **spp. P.** Sterile floret awned, as well developed as the non-pointed hermaphrodite floret



Group V: Loose panicle, one fertile (hermaphrodite) floret

no other sterile i.e only 1-2 glumelles developed

(34 species, 16 in our area) *Leersia, Oryza* (also III, q.v.), Macrochloa, Nassella, **Stipa, Calamagrostis, Agrostis,** Jarava, **Piptatherum** (incl. **Oloptum)**, **Achnatherum**, Apera, **Sporobolus, Milium**, Polypogon,



Main species in the Cévennes:

V. a) Lemmas with a long awn > 4 cm

Stipa spp. P.

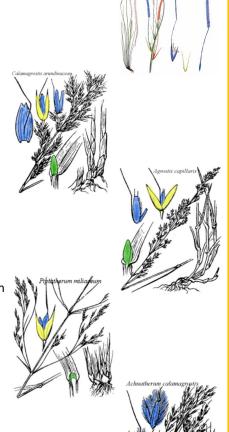
V. b) Lemmas with a moderate awn > 2.5 mm (< 4 cm)

Calamagrostis spp. P. Awn of lemmas dorsal; base of lemmas with long white hairs

Agrostis spp. P. Awn of lemmas dorsal/basal/absent; base of lemmas smooth or with short hairs

Piptatherum spp. (incl. **Oloptum miliaceum**) P. Awn of lemmas terminal; lemmas smooth or slightly velvety

Achnatherum spp. P. Awn of lemmas terminals; lemmas covered with long silky hairs

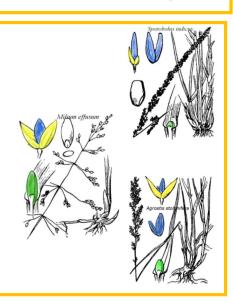


V. c) Awn of lemmas absent

Sporobolus indicus P. Ligule very short and velvety; glumes unequal

Milium effusum P. Ligule smooth; glumes rounded on the back

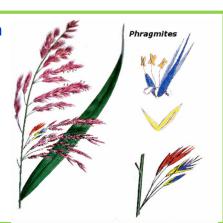
Agrostis stolonifera P. Ligule smooth. Stolon-forming



Group VIa: Loose panicle, 2+ fertile (hermaphrodite) florets, each surrounded by long white hairs, giving a silky panicle:

(3 species, 1 in our area) Arundo, Phragmites australis





Group VI: Loose panicle, 2+ (fertile) hermaphrodite florets, hairy ligule: spikelets almost always without awns:

(12 species, 11 in our area) Danthonia, Schismus, Eragrostis, Molinia, Kengia



Main species in the Cévennes:

VI.a) Glumes clearly longer than the lemma; lower glume >= upper glume

Danthonia decumbens P. Lemmas > 3 mm



VI.b) Glumes shorter than the lemmas; lower glume < upper glume

Eragrostis spp. A. spikelets with 4+ overlapping florets, upper glume < 3 mm



<u>Molinia caerulea</u> P. spikelets with 2-4 well-spaced florets, upper glume generally > 3 mm; one single internode under the flower stalk



Kengia serotina

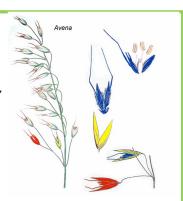
P. spikelets with 2-4 **well-spaced** florets, upper glume generally > 3 mm; **several internodes** under the flower stalk



Group VII: Loose panicle, 2+ fertile (hermaphrodite) florets, membranous ligule, dorsal awn Very long glumes

(34 species, 16 in our area) Antinoria (Aira), Ventenata, Pseudarrhenatherum, Avena, Helictotrichon, Helictochloa (=Avenula), Avenula, Corynephorus, Aira, Deschampsia, Trisetum





Main species in the Cévennes:

VII. a) Lemma with a dorsal awn; upper glume > 7 mm

Avena spp. A. drooping spikelets; glumes with several veins

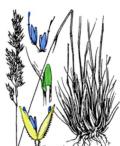
Avenula spp. (incl. Helictochloa) P. spikelets more or less upright; glumes with single prominent vein





VII. b) Lemma with a dorsal awn; upper glume < 7 mm

Corynephorus spp. P. Awns of the lemmas articulated at the bend, which has a crown of short hairs; summit of the awn is club shaped

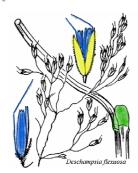


Aira spp. A. Awns of the lemmas not articulated at the bend, not club shaped; glumes clearly passing the summit of the 2nd floret





Deschampsia spp. P. Awns of the lemmas not articulated at the bend, not club shaped; glumes barely or not reaching the summit of the 2nd floret



Trisetum flavescens P. Like Deschampsia, but lemmas two toothed rather than 4-toothed



Group VIII: Loose panicle, 2+ fertile (hermaphrodite) florets, membranous ligule, awn terminal/sub-terminal/absent; very long glumes

(3 species, 0 in our area) Melica (see group IV), Avellinia, Airopsis

Group IX: Loose panicle, 2+ fertile (hermaphrodite) florets, membranous ligule, absent or terminal/sub-terminal awn; short glumes:

(95 species, 51 in our area) *Catapodium, Dactylis, Briza, Bromus* (incl. *Bromopsis, Cerato-chloa* et *Anisthanta*), *Ampelodesmos,* (*Vulpia*—see group I), *Festuca* (incl. *Patzkia*), *Catapodium, Schedonurus, Sphenopus, Glyceria*, *Cutandia*, *Poa*, *Catabrosa*, *Puccinellia*, *Drymochloa*



Main species in the Cévennes:

Group IX. a) Spike with a characteristic form

Dactylis glomerata A. Spikelets in compact bunches, branches naked between the principal axis and these bunches. Leaf-sheaths very flattened

Briza spp. A & P. Spikelets drooping and trembling





Group IX. b) Lemma or glumes with awns

Bromus spp. (incl. **Bromopsis, Ceratochloa** et **Anisthanta**) Lemmas split/ two-toothed with a subterminal awn; spikelet longer than 15 mm (without awns); leaf-sheaths (and often leaves) frequently velvety see next page

<u>Festuca</u> spp. <u>(incl. Patzkia paniculata)</u> Lemmas entire/toothed with a terminal awn (sometimes subterminal < 0.5 mm from the summit); spikelets compressed laterally; leaf-sheaths little or not compressed; lower glume > 2/3 upper glume. Basal leaves very narrow with the blade folded from the base, < 3.5 mm wide see next page

Group IX. c) Lemma or glumes without awns (or at most a small point < 0.5 mm). Spikelets with medium or long stalks, spike **not** divaricate or unilateral

Glycera spp., Poa spp. see next page









Spikelets with a very short stalk, spike divaricate or unilateral

Catapodium rigidum, Schedonurus pratense, Schedonurus arundinaceum see next page



Group IX. b) cont./

Bromus species in FlorMed (15 in our area): divided by TelaBotanica/FloraGallica (and thus Naturescene) in 4 genera:

Group 1: Bromopsis (= Bromus subgenus Festucoides)

Lemmas bi-toothed, by less than 0.5 mm; lower glume with 1 vein

Group 2 : Ceratochloa (= Bromus subgenus Ceratochloa)

Lemmas bi-toothed, by less than 0.5 mm; lower glume with several veins

Group 3: Bromus (= Bromus subgenus Bromus)

Lemmas bi-toothed, by more than 0.5 mm; lower glume with several veins

Group 4: Anisthanta (= Bromus subgenus Stenobromus)

Lemmas bi-toothed, by more than 0.5 mm; lower glume with 1 vein

Group IX. b) cont./

Festuca species (17 in our area):

Patzkea paniculata (= Festuca paniculata) Base of plant swollen into a bulb, ligules 2-lobed, forms dense mat



Group 2 in FlorMed

Lemmas smooth or with a narrow membranous border; ligules <0.5 mm; caryopsis adherent to the palea; flower-free shoots with leaf-sheaths fused right to the summit

Festuca rubra, Festuca rivularis, Festuca nigrescens, Festuca heteromalla, Festuca heterophylla



Group 3 in FlorMed

Lemmas smooth or with a narrow membranous border; ligules <0.5 mm; caryopsis adherent to the palea; flower-free shoots with leaf-sheaths fused for less than 2/3 of length

Festuca valesiaca, Festuca marginata, Festuca filiformis, Festuca ovina, Festuca airoides, Festuca heteroidea, Festuca billyi, Festuca christiani-bernardii, Festuca auquieri, Festuca longifolia, Festuca arvernensis

(Group 1 in FlorMed Not in our area) Lemmas rough; ligules 1-7 mm; caryopsis free

Group IX c)

Group IX. c) Lemma or glumes without awns (or at most a small point < 0.5 mm)

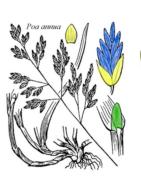
Spikelets with medium or long stalks, spike **not** divaricate or unilateral

Spike branched in lower section, spikelets with a very short stalk

Glyceria P. Lemmas 7+ veins, very obvious; upper glumes with a single, slightly transparent vein

Poa A & P. Lemmas with 3-5 veins; upper glumes with 3+ veins







Group IX. d) Lemma or glumes without awns. Spikelets with a very short stalk, spike divaricate or unilateral

Catapodium rigidum A. ligule oblong and torn

Schedonurus pratense P. ligule reduced to 2 lateral auricles, glabrous and fairly pointed

Schedonurus arundinaceum P. ligule reduced to 2 lateral auricles, ciliated and fairly blunt

= spikelet = glumes = = = = ligule = = ligule



Group X Grasses with unusual sexuality

- Lemmas transformed into leafy mini-plants, in place of florets.
- Grasses with apparently no flowers
- Grasses with separate male and female flowers on the same plant (monoecious)
- Grasses with separate male and female flowers on different plants (dioecious)

Main species in the Cévennes:

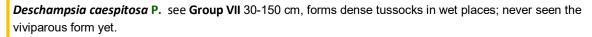
X. a) 'viviparous':

Lemmas transformed into leafy mini-plants, in place of florets.

(3 species, all in our area) *Poa bulbosa* var. *vivipara, Deschampsia caespitosa, Molinia caeurlea*

Poa bulbosa var. **vivipara P. see Group IX** 10-40 cm, sometimes forms tussocks; stalks swollen as a bulb at the base; very common in our area, normally as the viviparous form

Molinia caeurlea P. see Group VI 30-100 cm, thick tough base; hairy ligules; viviparous form not common









X. b) Plant monoecious; male inflorescences terminal, without leaves; female inflorescences axillary and enclosed in a leaf-sheath

Zea mays A. Widely cultivated (maize)

- X. c) Plant dioecious: impressively tall tufted clump; spikes 2-3 M

 Cortaderia selloana P. Rarely escapes from gardens in our area
- X. d) No flowers (except rarely); woody stems

Phyllostachys spp. P. Loose panicle, but flowering rare, and is followed by death of plant Several species, rarely escapes in our area. The bamboos (includes other rarer genera)



