

# Fimbristylis quinquangularis (=F. miliacea)

## Recognize the problem

Family: Cyperaceae (sedge family)

Common names: Lesser fimbristylis, grass-like fimbristylis, fiveangle fimbry.

Thai: หญ้าหนวดแมว Ya nuad maew; หญ้ารัตเขียด Ya rat khiat (Central, Chai Nat); หญ้าหนวดปลาตก Ya nuat plaa duk (Surat Thani).

Tufted, leafy annual or short lived perennial erect sedge with fibrous root system, without hairs, strongly tillering, 40-120 cm high.

Leaves: Stiff and thread-like (1.5-2.5 mm wide), up to 40 cm long, without prominent midrib.

Flowers: 6-10 cm long; rather lax and diffuse compound umbel with 6-50 spikelets; spikelets reddish brown, 2-4 mm long and either round or acute at apex.

Fruits/Seeds: Straw-coloured or pale ivory three-angled nut, 0.2-0.3 mm long. Produces 10,000 seeds per plant which can germinate immediately after reaching maturity. Seeds can remain viable for more than one year.

## Background

Origin: Uncertain.

Introduced: As contaminated seed.

Habitat: Occurs in damp, open waste places and along waterways.

Spread: Seeds are dispersed by water, wind and human-related activities or they can be eaten by cattle and germinate near droppings.

Invades: Abundant weed in rice plantations throughout tropical and subtropical regions.

Impacts: *Fimbristylis quinquangularis* competes with crops for light and nutrients. The weed interferes with management and can outcompete native vegetation. It is a serious weed in rice and shows allelopathic activity, negatively affecting growth and development of other plant species. The weed is a secondary host of pest and diseases such as rice earhead bug (*Leptocorisa acuta*), paddy armyworm (*Mythimna separate*), rice sheath blight (*Rhizoctonia solani*).

Scientific name(s) > *Fimbristylis quinquangularis* (Synonyms: *F. miliacea*, *F. angularis*, *Scirpus miliaceus*)

Inflorescence of *F. quinquangularis*.  
(Photo by © Ronnachai Changsri)



*F. quinquangularis* whole tufted plant. (Photo by © Siriporn Zungsontiporn)



The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Thailand



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