

Brachypodium distachyon (L.) P. Beauv., PURPLE FALSEBROME. Annual, fibrous-rooted, several-many-stemmed at base, cespitose and typically growing in dense clumps, decumbent, 15–50 cm tall; shoots with several cauline leaves, scabrous and soft-hairy.

Stems (culms): cylindric, slender, 0.9–1.5 mm diameter at nodes, striped green and whitish, internodes glabrous, nodes densely puberulent with slightly downward-pointing or sometimes spreading, soft hairs; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; sheath open, not overlapping, with ridge descending from blade midrib, narrowly membranous on margins, glabrous or occasionally sparsely pilose near the top, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule membranous, 0.6–1.5(–2) mm long, jagged, pubescent with short, upward-pointing hairs on outer surface; blade linear, 20–80 × 1.5–3.5(–5) mm, the widest near the base, flat, minutely toothed on margins base to tip, parallel-veined with whitish midrib raised on lower surface near sheath, ± pilose, scabrous with dense microhairs, having several whitish veins near base on the wider leaves.

Inflorescence: spikelets, in terminal panicles, branchlets with 1–3 spikelets, each spikelet of (6–)9–18 fertile florets, lateral spikelets short-stalked (± 0.5 mm), ascending to spreading, bracteate, awned; peduncle extending 25–250 mm above flag leaf; rachis flattened and white on 1 side, spikelets 8–20 mm apart, nodes puberulent. **Spikelet:** at anthesis narrowly lanceoloid slightly compressed side-to-side, 30–40 mm long (including awns), conspicuously ribbed and scabrous, breaking above glumes and between florets; **glumes** 2, unequal, lanceolate to ovate, lower glume 3.6–5.8 mm long, 3-veined or 5(7)-veined, upper glume 5.8–7.7 mm long, 7(9)-veined with veins forming conspicuous ribs on rounded back, membranous on margins, veins generally not converging at tip instead terminating before merging (except in 3-veined glumes); **lemma** awned, > glume, body 7–10.5 × 1.5–2 mm, rounded on back, (5)7(9)-veined, acuminate and tapering into awn at tip, scabrous-strigose (the lowest 2 lemmas sparsely so), the veins forming conspicuous ribs and converging at tip, the awn straight to slightly wavy, in range 3–15 mm long; **palea** narrowly elliptic, slightly < lemma, 2-veined, 2-keeled folded inward along veins, with membranous margins, veins green with a slight colorless crest, stiff-hairy above midpoint along each keel, the hairs toothlike, ascending, 0.3–0.5 mm long, conspicuously exposed, concave surface between keels obtuse and densely short-hairy at tip, short-strigose above midpoint (not on folds), with glistening microhairs over total length. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, acuminate-lanceolate, 1.5–2 × ± 0.5 mm, translucent, ciliate near tip, during anthesis bulbous at base, persistent but flat during fruit development; **stamens** 2; filaments very slender, translucent-white; anthers exerted or not (if exerted occurring after pollination), basifixed, dithecal, ± 0.8 mm long, creamy white to pale salmon, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen translucent-white; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, compressed wedge-shaped, at anthesis 0.8–1.2 mm long and wide, with erect straight hairs on 1/3 approaching tip, greenish around the embryo region near base, with an elliptic protrusion on 1 side and an indentation on the other side, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, ± 2 mm long, arising near tip on side above protrusion; stigma finely dendritic with numerous unforked branches. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), narrowly elliptic compressed front-to-back, 6–8 × 2–2.2 mm, 1 face concave and other face convex, with a tuft of short hairs at tip. Late March–early May.

Naturalized. Clump-forming annual grass that strongly resembles species of *Bromus* (brome grasses). *Brachypodium* is seldom encountered in our range, but can be expected mostly near the coast but has also occurs in Thousand Oaks (SH). In comparison with species of *Bromus*, *Brachypodium distachyon* has hairy stem nodes, anthers that occasionally are exerted, and a series of toothlike hairs above midpoint on the palea along each vein (clearly seen against the lemma).

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson