

Eragrostis mexicana (Hornem.) Link subsp. *virescens* (J. Presl) S. D. Koch & Sanchez Vega, CHILEAN LOVE GRASS. Annual, fibrous-rooted, several-many-stemmed at base, cespitose, branched at lower nodes, with ascending to erect inflorescences, 45–80 cm tall; shoots with only nonglandular hairs (glands and glandular pits absent), mostly glabrous except often with fine hairs to 3 mm long on upper margins of leaf sheath and on collar. **Stems (culms):** cylindric, to 2 mm diameter, green aging tawny or brownish, sometimes bent at lower nodes, internodes 13–100 mm long, finely ridged to smooth, glabrous and \pm glossy; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; prophyll at base of each shoot 2-keeled, linear-oblong, 10–40 mm long, membranous, glabrous but scabrous along keels; sheath open, 25–50 mm long, rounded and veiny on back or with raised midvein near top, membranous on margins, sometimes finely pilose-ciliate on margins near top, without lobes (auricles) at top; collar pilose with hairs to 3 mm long; ligule a band of white hairs 0.2–0.5 mm long; blade lanceolate-linear, in range 18–140 \times 1.2–4.5 mm, the widest near base, flat when fresh becoming inrolled when water-stressed, parallel-veined with midvein slightly more conspicuous than other veins on lower surface but not conspicuous on upper surface, dull, glabrous or sometimes minutely scabrous on upper surface. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in open, terminal, panicles, panicle ovoid, in range 150–320 \times 40–180 mm, with only 1 lateral branch per node, spikelets in range with 5–9 florets, bracteate, glabrous; principal branches spreading with pulvinus, to 100 mm long, generally branched again except for the shortest, upper lateral branches, glabrous; stalk of spikelet ascending to spreading, 1.5–6.5 mm long. **Spikelet:** narrowly lanceoloid compressed side-to-side, in range 4–7 \times 1–1.4 mm (0.2 mm wider when glumes spread), greenish becoming purplish tinged or \pm lead-colored, straight, rachilla zigzagged, remaining intact, having glumes abscising and lemma released with fruit and palea persistent on rachilla; **glumes** 2, unequal, ovate to lanceolate keeled toward tip, lower glume 1–1.3 mm long, upper glume 1.3–1.6 mm long, green medially and becoming purplish tinged, scarious on margins, acuminate at tip, minutely scabrous along midvein; **lemma** ovate, in range 1.5–2.1 mm long, green becoming greenish gray or lead-colored, acute to acuminate at tip, obscurely 3-veined with veins not converging at tip, obscurely minutely scabrous along midvein or smooth; **palea** arched, 2-keeled, 1.3–1.6 mm long, grayish green to scarious, 2-veined, minutely scabrous along veins, margins strongly folded along keels, rounded or truncate at tip between vein ends. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, ovate and acute at tip, white; **stamens** 3, free; filaments 0.8–1 mm long, white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ca. 0.25 mm long, yellowish to orange-brown, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1, 0.8–1 mm long; ovary superior, oblanceoloid, ca. 0.35 mm long, with distinct style bases at tip, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, ca. 0.6 mm long, branching in upper 2/3 into \pm feathery (plumose), translucent-white stigmas. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), oblongish, 0.7–0.8 \times 0.4–0.5 mm, opaque brownish or orange-brown to yellowish and light orange-brown, convex on lemma (dorsal) side, shallowly and broadly grooved on palea (ventral) side, \pm striped on surface, bearing an inversely conic, long-tapered stalk from a truncate base, the stalk initially greenish becoming brownish or white. September.

Native. Uncommon annual of disturbed habitats or marshy ground, more common in agricultural fields and gardens adjacent to our area, where it can be found in flower during

summer and fall. *Eragrostis mexicana* subsp. *virescens*, as the common name indicates, is also native to Chile, and thus has a disjunct distribution between North America (California and western Nevada) and South America (Ecuador to Chile, Brazil, and Argentina). On the achene, the flattened base, and sometimes the tip and the broad, shallow groove, distinguishes *E. mexicanus* subsp. *virescens* from other species of *Eragrostis* in range.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson