

Polypogon interruptus Kunth, DITCH BEARD GRASS. Perennial herb, rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted, tufted, in range decumbent to erect, often rooting at the lowermost nodes, 35–80 cm tall; shoots commonly bent (geniculate) at nodes, glabrous but \pm minutely scabrous on leaf blades and inflorescence; adventitious roots at nodes. **Stems (culms):** cylindric, 1–2 mm diameter, internodes 15–75 mm long, smooth; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; sheath open, 50–70 mm long, veiny-ridged, membranous on margins, glabrous, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule membranous, acute to narrowly rounded and irregularly toothed (erose), 2.5–7.5 mm long, veiny, finely scabrous on exposed surface; blade linear to lanceolate-linear (narrowly lanceolate), 45–155 \times 1.7–5.5 mm, minutely serrate-scabrous on margins, acuminate at tip, parallel-veined with principal veins raised on both surfaces and scabrous. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal, condensed panicles, panicle cylindric-lanceoloid to cylindric-oblancoeloid, 40–120 \times 8–16 mm, commonly with gaps where rachis visible or lobes where lateral branch diverges, nodes alternate distichous with 3–10 suberect to ascending lateral branches per node, spikelet with 1 floret, bracteate, awned; rachis glabrous but scabrous approaching tip; rachis \pm scabrous; principal branches 4–50 mm long, the longer ones branched again, ultimate branchlets bearing 1–8 spikelets; stalk of spikelet (stipe) inversely conic, 0.2–1 mm long, scabrous. **Spikelet:** slightly compressed side-to-side, breaking at base of stalk and above glumes; **glumes** 2, subequal, lanceolate to narrowly ovate, 1.7–2.4 mm long (lower glume) and 1.7–2.2 mm long (upper glume), membranous, 1-veined with raised midvein on back, ciliate below midpoint and scabrous above midpoint on margins, acute to slightly truncated or minutely notched at tip, the awn arising from tip or sinus, 1.6–2.8 mm long (lower glume) and 1.5–2.9 mm long (upper glume), bent near midpoint, colorless, minutely scabrous; rachilla not prolonged beyond palea; **lemma** awned, membranous, obtuse, 1–1.3 mm long, included within glumes, glossy and smooth, \pm 5-toothed at tip, obscurely 5-veined, the awn \pm terminal, 1.2–1.8 mm long, resembling glume awns but shorter and more slender; **palea** membranous, 0.1–0.2 mm < lemma, 2-veined, inconspicuously 2-toothed. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, membranous, lanceolate, \pm 0.4 \times 0.15 mm; **stamens** 3, free, exserted; filaments threadlike, \pm 0.5 mm long, colorless; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.4–0.6 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, obovoid, \pm 0.4 \times 0.25 mm, colorless, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, exserted midpoint of glumes and spreading in opposite directions, each 0.6–1 mm long, colorless; stigmas with short perpendicular branches. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), possibly formed asexually, ellipsoid to obovoid, 0.8–0.9 \times 0.3–0.5 mm, orangey brown to light brown, with remnants of stigmas at tip, the surface faintly longitudinally wrinkled to elongate-netlike, grooved on palea side. April–early July.

Native. Perennial herb in range but seldom collected, known to occur in moist to wet substrate of drainage channels and depressions as well as along pond and creek margins. *Polypogon interruptus* has one floret per spikelet, which has a short stalk, and it in many ways resembles *P. monspeliensis*.

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