

Digitaria insularis

Sourgrass

Digitaria insularis (L.) Mez ex Ekman
Syn. *Trichachne insularis*

Family: Poaceae

Description: Erect bunch grass to 5 ft tall. Base of stems swollen, hairy, hard, scaly. Sheath 6 inches long, much longer than the internodes, hairy. Ligule a membrane. Blades 20 inches long by 0.5 inches wide, upper surface rough, lower smooth. Inflorescences 10 inches long, gray, somewhat closed, silky, nodding. Latin *digitus*, finger, in reference to finger-like branches of inflorescences of many *Digitaria*; *insularis*, insular or of islands, perhaps because of its wide distribution on islands of the Pacific and Malesia^(5,70).

Distribution: From tropical America, now common throughout the Pacific Islands including Midway. Common in dry to mesic lowland pastures, roadsides, and waste lands on all the main islands except Ni‘ihau. First collected on O‘ahu in 1924⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Unpalatable to livestock. Forms dense stands in mesic pastures and disturbed forests. Infests disturbed areas in mesic and dry natural areas, roadsides, and waste areas.

Management: Sensitive to glyphosate. Grazing management would be more practical in pastures.

