1	Leaf blades (6–)8–20 mm wide; spikelets 15–25 mm long; fruits with the main body 3.5–5.5 mm long, the tubercle 13–22 mm long	(2)
+	Leaf blades 0.2–4.0 mm wide; spikelets 2.5–7.0 mm long; fruits with the main body 1.2–2.8 mm long, the tubercle 0.3–1.6 mm long	(3)
2 (1)	Perianth bristles (5)6, 11–14 mm long, all about the same length and longer than the mature fruits	6 *Rhynchospora macrostachya*
+	Perianth bristles usually 5(3–6), 2–4 mm long, unequal lengths and shorter than the mature fruits (do not confuse the bristles with filaments of the stamens, which are smooth-margined and not expanded at the base)	3 *Rhynchospora corniculata*
3 (1)	Perianth bristles with downwardly pointing barbs; main body of the fruits narrowly elliptic to narrowly obovate in outline, the tubercle narrowly triangular-attenuate, about as long as the main body of the fruit	(4)
+	Perianth bristles with upwardly pointing barbs or rarely smooth; main body of the fruits broadly elliptic to broadly obovate or broadly ovate in outline, the tubercle broadly triangular or depressed-conical, much shorter than the main body of the fruit	(5)
4 (3)	Leaf blades 0.2–0.4 mm wide, hairlike, the margins inrolled; main body of fruits uniformly brown at maturity, the surface patterned with fine, wavy, horizontal lines, sometimes appearing finely wrinkled	1 *Rhynchospora capillacea*
+	Leaf blades 0.5–3.5 mm wide, flat; main body of fruits brown with conspicuously pale margins, the surface smooth	2 *Rhynchospora capitellata*
5 (3)	Main body of the fruits 1.2–1.5 mm long, the surface appearing horizontally wrinkled or ridged, with a secondary, fine pattern of vertical lines between the wrinkles, brown	4 *Rhynchospora globularis* var. *recognita*
+	Main body of the fruits 1.5–1.8 mm long, the surface appearing honeycombed with a fine network of ridges and pits that are longer than to about as long as wide, reddish brown to black	5 *Rhynchospora harveyi*