1	Ovary or fruit enclosed in (but not fused to) a saclike perigynium, the stigmas protruding from a small opening at the tip	3 *Carex*
+	Ovary or fruit naked, without a saclike covering	(2)
2 (1)	Plants monoecious, the spikelets with either 1 pistillate floret and somewhat broader scales or with 2–5 staminate florets and narrower scales; fruits appearing hard, white, and bony at maturity, lacking a tubercle	15 *Scleria*
+	Florets all or mostly perfect, sometimes the apical or basal ones of a spikelet staminate, the scales all alike or not differentiated into 2 kinds; fruits rarely white, not appearing hard and bony at maturity, if rarely white then with a tubercle at the tip	(3)
3 (2)	Spikelet scales 2-ranked, the spikelets several to many per inflorescence	(4)
+	Spikelet scales several-ranked in an overlapping spiral pattern, or if rarely appearing 2-ranked then the spikelets 1 per aerial stem	(6)
4 (3)	Aerial stems hollow, appearing jointed; inflorescences axillary; florets with bristles	5 *Dulichium*
+	Aerial stems solid, not appearing jointed; inflorescences terminal; florets without bristles	(5)
5 (4)	Spikelets with 3 to many alternating scales (2 somewhat reduced scales also at the spikelet base), the fertile florets 2 to many, or if reduced to 1 then the inflorescence noticeably branched, the spikes with short to long stalks	4 *Cyperus*
+	Spikelets with 2 more or less opposite scales (1–2 highly reduced scales usually visible with magnification at the spikelet base), the fertile floret 1; inflorescence of 1–3 headlike spikes, these short, sessile, dense	10 *Kyllinga*
6 (3)	Style bases enlarged and persistent, forming a conical, triangular, or peglike tubercle on the tip of the fruit that is differentiated in texture and often color from the main body of the fruit	(7)
+	Style bases not enlarged, or if thickened then either not persisting on the mature fruit as a tubercle or the fruit tapered to a persistent beak that is not differentiated in texture or color from the main body of the fruit	(9)
7 (6)	Inflorescences of 1 terminal spikelet; plants essentially leafless, the leaves reduced to 1–4 bladeless sheaths at the base of each aerial stem	6 *Eleocharis*
+	Inflorescences of 2 to many spikelets; aerial stems with few to many leaves with elongate leaf blades	(8)
8 (7)	Tubercles minute, peglike	2 *Bulbostylis*
+	Tubercles prominent, conical or triangular-flattened	12 *Rhynchospora*
9 (6)	Inflorescences of 1 terminal spikelet; plants essentially leafless, the leaves reduced to 1–4 bladeless sheaths at the base of each aerial stem; fruits with a persistent stylar beak	6 *Eleocharis*
+	Inflorescences of 2 to many spikelets, or if with 1 terminal spikelet, then the stems with several leaves with well-developed leaf blades; fruits not tapered to a persistent stylar beak	(10)
10 (9)	Involucral bract 1, similar in size and appearance to the bracts of the spikelet, not leaflike or stemlike	16 *Trichophorum*
+	Involucral bracts 1 to several, at least some of them leaflike or stemlike in appearance	(11)
11 (10)	Ovaries and fruits subtended by 1–6 (rarely more) scales and/or bristles (do not confuse bristles with the smooth, flattened filaments of the stamens, which can persist after the anthers have dropped off; the bristles generally have a different texture from the filaments and are often barbed)	(12)
+	Ovaries and fruits not subtended by bristles or scales (except for the single scale subtending each floret)	(16)
12 (11)	Ovaries and fruits subtended by scales and bristles or only by scales (these in addition to the 1 larger scale subtending each floret)	(13)
+	Ovaries and fruits subtended by bristles only, scales lacking (except for the scale subtending each floret)	(14)
13 (12)	Bristles absent, the ovaries and fruits subtended by 1–2 small, papery scales	11 *Lipocarpha*
+	Ovaries and fruits subtended by 3 bristles alternating with 3 scales, these narrowed abruptly to a short stalk	8 *Fuirena*
14 (12)	Involucral bracts 1–3, the main bract erect or nearly so, stemlike, the inflorescence thus appearing lateral (other bracts, if present, inconspicuous)	13 *Schoenoplectus*
+	Involucral bracts 2 to several, leaflike, the inflorescence appearing terminal	(15)
15 (14)	Spikelets 10–40 mm long, 6–12 mm in diameter, the scales hairy	1 *Bolboschoenus*
+	Spikelets 2.5–10.0 mm long, 2–4 mm in diameter, the scales glabrous (rarely glandular)	14 *Scirpus*
16 (11)	Involucral bracts 1–3, the main bract erect or nearly so, stemlike, the inflorescence thus appearing lateral (other bracts, if present, shorter, spreading to reflexed)	(17)
+	Bracts subtending the inflorescence (1)2 to several, variously oriented, but leaflike, the inflorescence thus appearing terminal	(19)
17 (16)	Stigmas 3; fruits 3-angled	9 *Isolepis*
+	Stigmas 2; fruits biconvex	(18)
18 (17)	Surface of the fruits minutely pebbled in numerous vertical ranks	11 *Lipocarpha*

+	Surface of the fruits with fine cross-wrinkles	13 *Schoenoplectus*
19 (16)	Leaves 0.5–2.0 mm wide	7 *Fimbristylis*
+	Leaves 5–10 mm wide	(20)
20 (19)	Spikelets 10–40 mm long, 6–12 mm in diameter, the scales hairy; achenes 2.5–5.0 mm long	1 *Bolboschoenus*
+	Spikelets 2.5–10.0 mm long, 2–4 mm in diameter, the scales glabrous; achenes 0.7–2.0 mm long	14 *Scirpus*