1 (1)	Flowers (at least some) bisexual (subfam. Cyperoideae).	(1)
+	Flowers unisexual (subfam. Caricoideae, tribe Cariceae).	(2)
2 (1)	Spikes many-flowered; if only 2-3 flowers, then with at most, 1 or 2 empty basal glumes (Cyperus subg. Mariscus, and Kyllinga).	(2)
+	Spikes with few flowers (mostly 1-2); 2 to several basal glumes empty.	(3)
3 (2)	Leaves reduced to basal sheaths (in submerged plants often elongated blades, e.g., in Schoenoplectus).	(3)
+	At least some basal leaves with blades.	(4)
4 (3)	Inflorescence multiple spike or anthelodium.	(5)
+	Inflorescence a simple spike.	10 *Eleocharis*
5 (4)	Glumes in spikelets arranged distichously.	15 *Cyperus*
+	Glumes arranged spirally.	3 *Schoenoplectus*
6	Leaves basal, stem with one much elongated internode; glumes not as above; perianth bristles present or absent.	(7)
+	Stem leafy with several elongated internodes; glumes truncate, hairy, scarious, metallic grey; perianth bristles missing.	14 *Fuirena*
7 (6)	Inflorescence a multiple spike or anthelodium; leaf blades long.	(8)
+	Inflorescence a solitary spike; leaves much reduced.	7 *Trichophorum*
8 (7)	Perianth bristles finally much exceeding glumes.	(8)
+	Perianth bristles not exceeding glumes or absent.	(9)
9 (8)	Inflorescence a single head.	9 *Eriophorum*
+	Inflorescence formed by several peduncled spikes.	8 *Erioscirpus*
10	Spikes not in pseudo-lateral, spherical heads.	(11)
+	Spikes congested into pseudo-lateral, spherical heads.	4 *Scirpoides*
11 (10)	Style base enlarged into a stylopodium.	(11)
+	Style base not enlarged into a stylopodium.	(12)
12 (11)	Stylopodium deciduous.	(13)
+	Nut crowned by a persistent small stylopodium.	13 *Bulbostylis*
13 (12)	Inflorescence with 1-3 spikes.	11 *Abildgaardia*
+	Inflorescence with several to numerous spikes.	12 *Fimbristylis*
14 (14)	Perianth bristles present.	(14)
+	Perianth bristles absent.	(15)
15 (14)	Spikes not distichously arranged.	(16)
+	Spikes distichously arranged (3-18 sessile spikes, 5-8 mm).	5 *Blysmus*
16 (15)	Inflorescence formed by less than 15 spikes, 8 - 30 mm.	2 *Bolboschoenus*
+	Inflorescence an anthelodium, spikelets numerous, 3-7 mm.	1 *Actinoscirpus*
17 (17)	Glumes spirally arranged.	(17)
+	Glumes distichous.	(18)
18 (17)	Glumes with short obtrullate lamina and long squarrose arista.	18 *Lipocarpha*
+	Glumes cymbiform, midnerve barely reaching apex.	6 *Isolepis*
19	Nuts with edge facing spike axis.	(20)
+	Nuts with flat face towards spike axis.	15 *Cyperus*
20 (19)	Inflorescence formed by 1-3 heads; spikes with less than 6 glumes.	17 *Kyllinga*
+	Inflorescence a multiple spike or anthelodium; spikes with more than (8-)10 glumes.	16 *Pycreus*
21	Inflorescence formed by several groups of spikes at each stem node	20 *Cladium*
+	Inflorescence a single terminal group of spikes.	19 *Schoenus*
22	Utricle closed, mostly beaked; rachilla mostly not present or, when present, sterile and mostly hidden within utricle.	22 *Carex*
+	Utricle abaxially more or less open, at least, basal ones, and beak not differentiated; staminate flowers on axis which extends from, or remains as sterile rachilla enclosed in utricle.	21 *Kobresia*