

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 <i>Eleocharis</i>
5 (4)	Glumes in spikelets arranged distichously.	15 <i>Cyperus</i>
+	Glumes arranged spirally.	3 <i>Schoenoplectus</i>
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 <i>Fuirena</i>
7 (6)	Inflorescence a multiple spike or anthelodium; leaf blades long.	(8)
+	Inflorescence a solitary spike; leaves much reduced.	7 <i>Trichophorum</i>
8 (7)	Perianth bristles finally much exceeding glumes.	(8)
+	Perianth bristles not exceeding glumes or absent.	(9)
9 (8)	Inflorescence a single head.	9 <i>Eriophorum</i>
+	Inflorescence formed by several peduncled spikes.	8 <i>Erioscirpus</i>
10	Spikes not in pseudo-lateral, spherical heads.	(11)
+	Spikes congested into pseudo-lateral, spherical heads.	4 <i>Scirpoides</i>
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 <i>Bulbostylis</i>
13 (12)	Inflorescence with 1-3 spikes.	11 <i>Abildgaardia</i>
+	Inflorescence with several to numerous spikes.	12 <i>Fimbristylis</i>
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 <i>Blysmus</i>
16 (15)	Inflorescence formed by less than 15 spikes, 8 - 30 mm.	2 <i>Bolboschoenus</i>
+	Inflorescence an anthelodium, spikelets numerous, 3-7 mm.	1 <i>Actinoscirpus</i>
17 (17)	Glumes spirally arranged.	(17)
+	Glumes distichous.	(18)
18 (17)	Glumes with short obtusate lamina and long squarrose arista.	18 <i>Lipocarpa</i>
+	Glumes cymbiform, midnerve barely reaching apex.	6 <i>Isolepis</i>
19	Nuts with edge facing spike axis.	(20)
+	Nuts with flat face towards spike axis.	15 <i>Cyperus</i>
20 (19)	Inflorescence formed by 1-3 heads; spikes with less than 6 glumes.	17 <i>Kyllinga</i>
+	Inflorescence a multiple spike or anthelodium; spikes with more than (8-)10 glumes.	16 <i>Pycneus</i>
21	Inflorescence formed by several groups of spikes at each stem node	20 <i>Cladium</i>
+	Inflorescence a single terminal group of spikes.	19 <i>Schoenus</i>
22	Utricle closed, mostly beaked; rachilla mostly not present or, when present, sterile and mostly hidden within utricle.	22 <i>Carex</i>
+	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 <i>Kobresia</i>