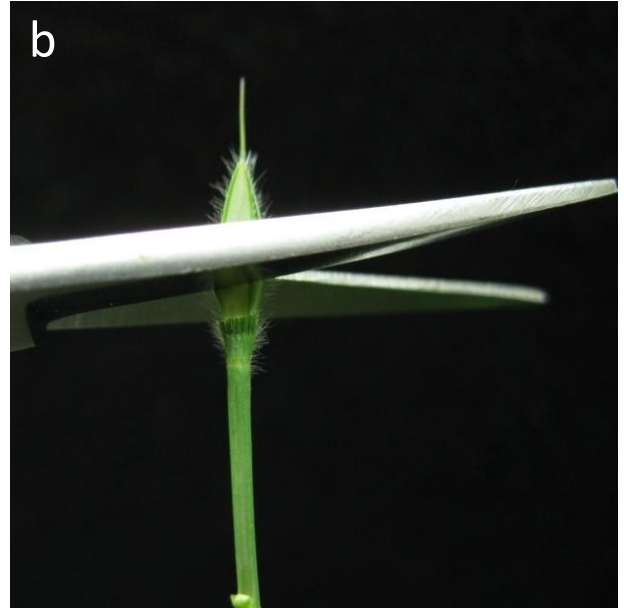


An Easier and More Effective Brachy Emasculation Method

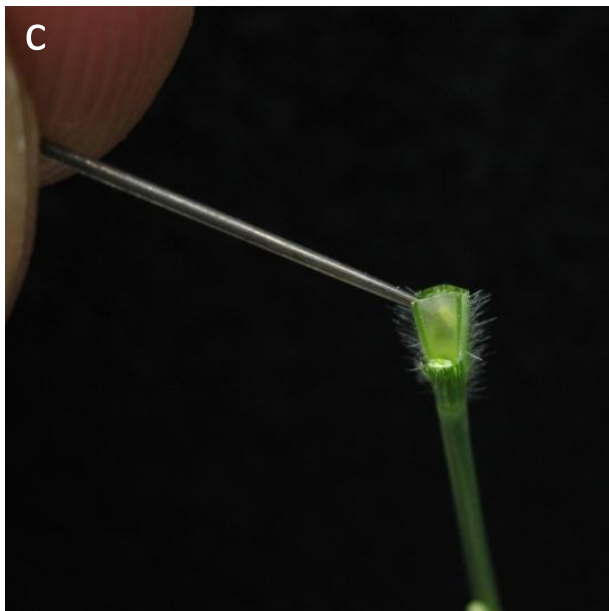
-see original crossing document for a good explanation of picking florets for the work. This update shows a modification of our original method of emasculation that we find is very effective and much faster.



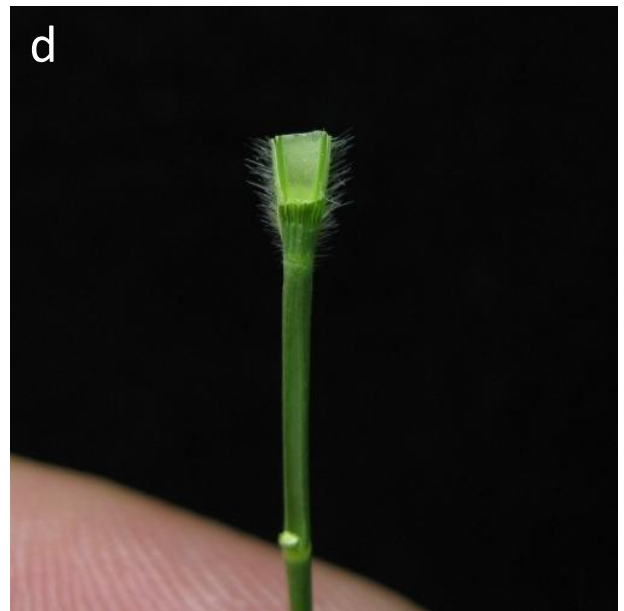
Find a target female floret as described in the original crossing document. You can see the nice, feathery stigma, indicating an appropriate stage for emasculation.



Trim back the floret just at or a bit below the stigma. Nice sharp scissors are needed to minimize damage. This will make emasculation/pollination a lot easier.



.Now just go in and tease anthers up and out. The benefit of working with trimmed back florets is that it is far simpler to pop out the anthers, with less likelihood of accidental release of pollen.



This shows an emasculated floret ready for pollination. I generally do this shortly before I pollinate, it is so quick to prep a female floret this way that I just do it once I know that I will have pollen available in a short time.

To pollinate, refer to the original document for obtaining pollen (still the rate limiting issue of crossing for me). This revised method deviates a bit from that because all I do is stuff a good plump (just at the point of dehiscence) anther into the open floret, agitate it a little bit, and then it is done. Do not cram the anther down into the floret, just place it in the opening and perhaps tamp down a little bit. No covering of floret is needed after pollination to prevent dessication.

Development of the Seed After Pollination

-this gives you a sense of what you will see after you get a successful cross.

1 d post pollination



2 d post pollination



3 d post pollination



4 d post pollination



7 d post pollination



14 d post pollination



21 d post pollination



1 month post pollination



Seeds from crosses vs.
seeds from normal spikes



While the seeds may look shriveled and not particularly healthy, they germinate well, perhaps even better than normal seeds. This may be due to removal (by trimming back floret in preparation for crossing) of some of the germination inhibitors that may reside in the husk.