

## *Chrysopogon zizanioides* ( L.) Roberty



**Habit:** Herb

**Morphology:** Tussocky perennial; roots stout, aromatic. Culms robust, 1 -2.5 m tall, ca. 5 mm in diam. Leaf sheaths glabrous, lower sharply keeled and imbricate in fanlike clusters; leaf blades linear, pale green, stiff, 30 -90 × 0.5 -1 cm, pilose on adaxial surface toward base, otherwise glabrous; ligule a scarious rim. Panicle oblong in outline, 20 -30 cm, usually contracted, purplish; branches numerous, lowermost 5 -20 cm, bare at base, smooth or slightly scaberulous; racemes slender, with 5 -13 spikelet pairs and a terminal triad; internodes and pedicels slightly scabrid. Sessile spikelet linear-lanceolate to almost linear, 4 -5 mm; callus rounded, subglabrous; lower glume muricate, 3 -5-veined, veins spinulosely aculeate, apex acute; upper glume spinulosely aculeate on keel, not awned; upper lemma slightly 2-toothed, awnless or mucronate; mucro 0 -2 mm, not exerted. Pedicelled spikelet staminate, sparingly aculeolate or almost smooth.

**Taxonomy:**

<b>Kingdom</b>	Plantae
<b>Division</b>	Angiospermae
<b>Class</b>	Liliopsida
<b>Order</b>	Poales
<b>Family</b>	Poaceae
<b>Genus</b>	<i>Chrysopogon</i>
<b>Species</b>	<i>Chrysopogon zizanioides</i> ( L.) Roberty

**Uses:** Vetiver grass is grown for many purposes. The plant helps to stabilise soil and protects it against erosion, but it can also protect fields against pests and weeds. Vetiver has favourable

qualities for animal feed. From the roots, oil is extracted and used for cosmetics, aromatherapy, herbal skincare and ayurvedic soap. Its fibrous properties make it useful for handicrafts, ropes and more.

**Reference:** [www.cabidigitallibrary.org](http://www.cabidigitallibrary.org)