**Bambusa Schreber**

**Distribution:** Northern coastal areas (El Litoral), Central regions (Los Llanos) and North southern regions of the country (Cordillera de La Costa and la Cordillera de Mérida), occurring mainly at low altitudes (sea level to 1600 m).

**Habitat:** cultivated in lower-montane areas, naturalized in wet lowlands such as river banks and coastal areas.

**VEGETATIVE CHARACTERS**

**Rhizomes** pachymorph.

**Habit** clumping.

**Culms** unarmed, diameter at the base 4 to 15 cm, erect to weakly arching above; **internodes** subequal, hollow, thick-walled and strongly lignified. **Culm leaves** deciduous, **abaxial surface** with dark, irritating, strigose trichomes; **sheath** summit with conspicuous auricles and conspicuous dark brown, straight fimbriae (4-8 mm, long); **blades** always erect, base constricted at the sheath summit.

**Midculm nodes** bearing one bud per node, nodes lacking band of white trichomes above and below the nodal line;

**Branch complement** consisting of a single dominant primary branch, or of one dominant primary branch and 1-3 smaller, secondary branches.

**Foliage leaf sheaths** bearing fimbriae, these generally inconspicuous (2-3 mm);

**Blades** 10 to 22 cm long, **abaxial surface** uniform in color, **midrib** always conspicuous.

**REPRODUCTIVE CHARACTERS**

**Synflorescences** bracteate, spicate to paniculate, consisting of pseudospikelets;

**Glumes** 2, subtended by prophylls and gemmiparous bracts;

**Florets** usually 2-5 per spikelet, **floret length** ca. 5 times the width;

**Palea** lacking winged keels;

**Rachilla** extension present;

**Lodicules** 3;

**Stamens** 6;

**Stigmas** 3.

**Species occurring in Venezuela:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Habitat</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Bambusa vulgaris</em></td>
<td>Aragua, Distrito Federal,</td>
<td>Humid lowlands, coastal areas,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>var. <em>vulgaris</em></td>
<td>Lara, Mérida, Trujillo,</td>
<td>lower montane areas, along</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Bambusa vulgaris</em></td>
<td>Táchira, Sucre, Yaracuy,</td>
<td>river banks</td>
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<tr>
<td>var. <em>vittata</em> Rivière &amp; C. Rivière</td>
<td>Miranda,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Note: This species is an exotic, currently naturalized in many regions of the country, the first variety with uniformly green culms, the second with bicolored culms with yellow stripes.
Bambusa vulgaris
Photos by Dr. Lynn Clark