**Elytrostachys McClure**

**Distribution:** Patchy, western part of the country and the Cordillera de La Costa.

**Habitat:** wet to seasonally dry forests, generally at low elevations.

**VEGETATIVE CHARACTERS**

- **Rhizomes** pachymorph.
- **Habit** medium to large-sized, erect below, scandent above.
- **Culms** unarmed, diameter at the base 0.5 to 4 cm; **internodes** all subequal, hollow, thin to thick walled;
- **Culm leaves** deciduous, **abaxial surface** scabrous to hispid; **sheath** with or without auricles, bearing fimbriae, these straight and very conspicuous (28-50 mm); **blades** always reflexed, base constricted at the sheath summit.
- **Midculm nodes** bearing one bud per node, nodes lacking bands of white trichomes above and below the nodal line;
- **Branch complement** consisting of a main dominant branch, accompanied by several to numerous smaller, secondary branches, borne on a weakly developed promontory.
- **Foliage leaf sheaths** with fimbriae, these always very conspicuous (5-12 mm);
- **Blades** 8 to 10 cm long, **abaxial surface** bicolored, with a distinct, marginal green band, **midrib** inconspicuous to moderately conspicuous.

**REPRODUCTIVE CHARACTERS**

- **Synflorescences** racemose, capitate or spicate, consisting of pseudospikelets;
- **Glumes** 2, subtended by one small external prophyll;
- **Florets** generally one per spikelet,
- **Lemma** length 4-5 times the width;
- **Palea** lacking winged keels;
- **Rachilla** extension present;
- **Lodicules** 3;
- **Stamens** 3;
- **Stigmas** 2.

**Species occurring in Venezuela:**

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<th>State</th>
<th>Habitat</th>
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<td>Bolívar</td>
<td>Lower montane forests</td>
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<td><em>E. typica</em></td>
<td>Distrito Federal, Táchira</td>
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Elytrostachys typica
Photos by X. Londoño