

dong, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [NE India, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Russia; cultivated in SE Asia].

This species is cultivated as a vegetable in China. The young

shoots and rhizomes are edible when infected, swollen, and softened by the fungus *Ustilago esculenta*. The presence of the fungus prevents flowering. The grains were used for food by the Emperor in ancient China, and are currently being used by fishermen.

## 5. Tribe BRACHYELYTREAE

短颖草族 duan ying cao zu

Lu Shenglian (卢生莲); Sylvia M. Phillips

Perennials. Leaf blades narrowly lanceolate, with or without indistinct cross veins, constricted at base; ligule membranous. Inflorescence a scanty panicle. Spikelets all alike, floret 1 with bristle-like rachilla extension, dorsally compressed, disarticulating above glumes; glumes unequal, tiny, lower glume vestigial, upper glume subulate, 1/10–1/4 length of floret; lemma firmly herbaceous, 5-veined, tapering into a straight awn from apex; palea as long as lemma, convolute; stamens 2. Caryopsis linear, the apex with a pallid pubescent beak bearing 2 terminal stigmas; pericarp thick, separable with difficulty. Leaf anatomy: non-Kranz, microhairs and fusoid cells absent.  $x = 11$ .

One genus and three species: two in E North America and one in E Asia including China.

### 42. BRACHYELYTRUM P. Beauvois, Ess. Agrostogr. 39. 1812.

短颖草属 duan ying cao shu

Description and distribution as for tribe.

**1. *Brachyelytrum japonicum*** (Hackel) Matsumura ex Honda, J. Fac. Sci. Univ. Tokyo, Sect. 3, Bot. 210. 1930.

日本短颖草 ri ben duan ying cao

*Brachyelytrum erectum* var. *japonicum* Hackel, Bull. Herb. Boissier 7: 647. 1899; *Brachyelytrum erectum* subsp. *japonicum* (Hackel) T. Koyama & Kawano.

Perennial from a short knotty rhizome. Culms solitary or loosely tufted, slender, erect, 40–100 cm tall, unbranched, 6–7-noded. Leaf sheaths shorter than internodes, glabrous or puberulent; leaf blades linear-lanceolate, thin, soft, 8–15 × 0.6–0.8 cm, scabridulous or puberulous when young, margins ciliate, apex acuminate; ligule 2–5 mm, obtuse to acuminate, usually

erose. Panicle narrow, 9–15 cm; branches short, suberect, capillary, scabrous, bearing a few subsessile spikelets. Spikelets 8–10 mm, gray-green; lower glume 0.4–1.5 mm; upper glume 1–4 mm, 1-veined or obscurely 3-veined at base, margins scarious; lemma narrowly lanceolate, 8–10 mm, rigid, 5-veined, scabrous on veins; awn 1.2–1.8 cm, slender, scabrous; palea 2-toothed at apex; callus ca. 0.8 mm, shortly pilose. Anthers 3.3–4.5 mm. Rachilla extension 4–7 mm. Fl. Jun–Jul.

Woodland shade. Anhui, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Japan, Korea (Cheju Island)].

This species is very similar to the other two species of the genus in North America, but these have wider leaf blades (0.8–2 cm wide) and a shorter lower glume (0.2–0.7 mm).

## 6. Tribe PHAENOSPERMATEAE

显子草族 xian zi cao zu

Lu Shenglian (卢生莲); Sylvia M. Phillips

Perennial. Leaf blades broadly linear with transverse veinlets, narrowed into a false petiole, this twisted to bring the abaxial surface uppermost; ligule long, membranous. Inflorescence a large open panicle, branches usually verticillate, scabridulous. Spikelets all alike, floret 1, rachilla extension absent, dorsally compressed, falling entire; glumes unequal, membranous to scarious; lemma as long as spikelet, herbaceous with scarious margins, strongly 3–5-veined, marginal veins obscure; palea resembling lemma but 2-veined, furrowed between keels, splitting at maturity; lodicules 3; stamens 3; stigmas 2. Caryopsis globose with small apical beak from style base, exposed between gaping lemma and palea at maturity, pericarp thick, softening and peeling away when wet, embryo very small, hilum as long as the caryopsis. Leaf anatomy: non-Kranz; microhairs absent; fusoid cells absent.  $x = 12$ .

One species: E Asia.

### 43. PHAENOSPERMA Munro ex Bentham, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 19: 59. 1881.

显子草属 xian zi cao shu

*Euthryptochloa* Cope.

Description and distribution as for tribe.