

206. APLUDA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 82. 1753.

水蔗草属 shui zhe cao shu

Sun Bixing (孙必兴 Sun Bi-sin); Sylvia M. Phillips

Perennial, rambling. Leaf blades linear-lanceolate, often pseudopetiolate; ligule membranous. Inflorescence a single short raceme encircled by a small boat-shaped spatheole; raceme comprising 1 sessile and 2 pedicelled spikelets; spatheoles numerous, crowded into a leafy compound panicle; peduncle very short, spikelet triad deciduous from it at maturity; pedicels both broad, strongly flattened, together with lower glume of sessile spikelet forming a triangular box around fertile floret. Sessile spikelet bisexual, slightly laterally compressed; callus broad, swollen; lower glume herbaceous or subleathery toward base, convex, without keels or wings, 2-toothed; upper glume strongly convex, laterally compressed, membranous with hyaline margins, 1-keeled, awnless; lower floret staminate, well developed with palea; upper lemma deeply 2-lobed and awned from sinus, or entire to emarginate and awnless; awn 4–12 mm. Pedicelled spikelets awnless, unequal, one well developed, staminate, as large as sessile spikelet, the other rudimentary.

One species: S Arabia and Mauritius through India to SE Asia, Australia, and New Caledonia.

1. *Apluda mutica* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 82. 1753.

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Apluda aristata Linnaeus; *A. communis* Nees; *A. geniculata* Roxburgh; *A. microstachya* Nees; *A. mutica* var. *aristata* (Linnaeus) Hackel; *A. varia* Hackel, nom. illeg. superfl.

Culms rooting from lower nodes, up to 3 m long, smooth, glabrous, much branched in upper part, branches flexuous. Leaf sheaths usually glabrous; leaf blades flat, 10–30 × 0.5–2 cm, attenuate to a setaceous apex; ligule 1–2 mm. Spathate panicle up to 50 cm, branches very slender with spaced spathes subtending small clusters of spatheoles; spatheole ovate in side view, herbaceous, multiveined, up to 1 cm, often tipped by a fimbriate ligule and narrow vestigial blade; peduncle 1–1.5 mm; raceme 7–10 mm; pedicels oblong, 3–4 mm, glabrous or

ciliate upward. Sessile spikelet 4–5 mm; lower glume narrowly elliptic-lanceolate; lower lemma as long as or shorter than lower glume; upper lemma deeply 2-lobed with 4–12 mm awn, or entire to emarginate and awnless. Pedicelled spikelets lanceolate, awnless. Fl. and fr. Jul–Dec.

Common in thickets and along forest margins, sometimes forming large masses; below 1800 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hunan, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Xizang, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan (Ryukyu Islands), Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Guinea, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; SW Asia (Oman, Socotra), Australia (Queensland), Indian Ocean Islands (Mascarenes), Madagascar, Pacific Islands (New Caledonia)].

This is a polymorphic species widespread in tropical Asia.

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