

115. ARUNDO Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 81. 1753.

芦竹属 lu zhu shu

Perennials, usually tall reeds, rhizomatous. Culms usually robust, rarely rather slender, hollow. Leaf blades cauline, broadly linear, tough, flat, base rounded or cordate; ligule membranous with minutely ciliate margin. Inflorescence a large, copiously branched, plumose panicle of numerous spikelets. Spikelets wedge-shaped, laterally compressed, florets 2–5, disarticulating above glumes and between florets; rachilla internodes glabrous; glumes subequal, narrow, as long as spikelet, membranous, 3–5-veined; floret callus laterally pilose; lemmas narrow, membranous, rounded on back, 3–7-veined, plumose below middle with spreading silky-white hairs, tapering to an entire or bidentate apex tipped by a straight awnlet; palea 1/2–2/3 length of lemma body, keels glabrous or shortly ciliate. $x = 12$.

Three species: Mediterranean region to China; two species in China.

- 1a. Culms 2–6 m tall; lemmas 8–11 mm, hairs 5–6 mm 1. *A. donax*
1b. Culms 0.6–1.2 m tall; lemmas 3.5–6 mm, hairs 1.5–3 mm 2. *A. formosana*

1. *Arundo donax* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 81. 1753.

芦竹 lu zhu

Aira bengalensis (Retzius) J. F. Gmelin; *Amphidonax bengalensis* (Retzius) Nees ex Steudel (1854), not Roxburgh ex Nees (1836); *Arundo bengalensis* Retzius; *A. coleotricha* (Hackel) Honda; *A. donax* var. *coleotricha* Hackel; *Donax arundinaceus* P. Beauvois; *D. bengalensis* (Retzius) P. Beauvois; *Scolochloa donax* (Linnaeus) Gaudin.

Robust reed from a thick knotty rhizome. Culms very stout, erect, 2–6 m tall, 1–1.5 cm in diam., unbranched or with bamboolike clusters of slender branches from nodes. Leaf sheaths longer than internodes, usually glabrous except long pilose at mouth; leaf blades 30–60 × 2–5 cm, margins scabrous, tapering to a slender filiform apex; ligule 0.7–1.5 mm. Panicle 30–60 cm, dense, usually purplish; branches 10–25 cm, ascending. Spikelets 10–15 mm, florets 2–5; glumes narrowly lanceolate, 8–12 mm, 3–5-veined, lower glume acute, upper glume sharply acuminate; lemmas linear-lanceolate, 8–11 mm, 3–7-veined, dorsal hairs 5–6 mm, apex minutely bidentate with 1–2 mm awnlet from sinus, lateral veins also shortly extended; palea 1/2 length of lemma body. Fl. and fr. Oct–Dec.

River banks and other damp places, but it will also grow when planted in dryish habitats. Fujian, Guangdong, Guizhou, Hainan, Hunan, Jiangsu, Sichuan, Xizang, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam; N Africa, C and SW Asia, S Europe; widely introduced elsewhere].

Forms with variegated leaf blades are sometimes cultivated in gar-

dens, e.g., var. *versicolor* (Miller) Stokes (*Arundo versicolor* Miller), with longitudinally green- and white-striped leaf blades. *Arundo donax* var. *coleotricha* refers to a wild variant with pubescent leaf sheaths.

The culms have many uses, including light construction, basket making, matting, musical pipes, and ornaments.

2. *Arundo formosana* Hackel, Bull. Herb. Boissier 7: 724. 1899.

台湾芦竹 tai wan lu zhu

Arundo formosana var. *gracilis* Hackel; *A. formosana* var. *robusta* Conert; *A. parviflora* Ohwi.

Tufted perennial from a short rhizome. Culms relatively slender, suberect to pendant, 0.6–1.2 m tall, 2–6 mm in diam., with slender clusters of branches from nodes. Leaf sheaths longer than internodes, glabrous; leaf blades 10–25 × 0.5–1.5 cm, margins scabrous, basal part with long silky hairs, apex acuminate; ligule 0.5–1 mm. Panicle 10–30 cm, loosely contracted, light brownish; branches 5–8 cm, ascending. Spikelets 6–10 mm, florets 2–5, uppermost floret much reduced; glumes 3–4 mm, 3-veined, lower glume lanceolate-elliptic, acuminate, upper glume lanceolate, acuminate; lemmas narrowly lanceolate, 3.5–6 mm, 5-veined, dorsal hairs 1.5–3 mm, apex subentire to minutely bidentate with 1.5–3 mm awn from sinus, lateral veins shortly extended or not; palea 2/3 length of lemma body. Fl. and fr. Jun–Dec.

Dry coastal grassland and sea cliffs. Taiwan [Japan (Iriomote Island in S Ryukyu Islands), Philippines].

The culms are used for basket making.

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