

**65. BRIZA** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 70. 1753.

凌风草属 *ling feng cao shu*

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Annual or perennial, slender. Leaf blades linear or broadly linear, flat. Inflorescence an open panicle; pedicels filiform. Spikelets ovate to rotund, laterally compressed or globose, florets several to many, glumes and florets horizontally spreading, disarticulating above glumes and between florets; glumes subequal, shorter than florets, narrowly ovate to orbicular, 3–5-veined, margins broad, scarious, apex hooded; lemmas tightly overlapping, orbicular to oblate, deeply concave, papery to leathery, 5–11-veined, back gibbous, usually slightly keeled, margins broad, membranous, appressed to floret above, base cordate, apex obtuse, cuspidate or 2-lobed; palea slightly or much shorter than lemma, lanceolate to orbicular, keels narrowly winged. Stamens 1–3. Caryopsis plumply elliptic; hilum round to elliptic, or linear.

Twenty-one species: temperate Asia, Europe, and South America; three species (two introduced) in China.

The delicate panicles of plump spikelets on fine trembling pedicels are very ornamental and are used in dried flower arrangements (Quaking Grass).

- 1a. Panicle drooping, with few spikelets; spikelets ca.  $12 \times 10$  mm; florets 10–12 ..... 3. *B. maxima*  
1b. Panicle erect, with numerous spikelets; spikelets  $3\text{--}6 \times 4\text{--}7$  mm; florets 3–8.  
2a. Perennial; ligule 0.5–1.5 mm; spikelets 4–6 mm; anthers 1.5–2 mm ..... 1. *B. media*  
2b. Annual; ligule 3–6 mm; spikelets 3–5 mm; anthers ca. 0.4 mm ..... 2. *B. minor*

**1. *Briza media*** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 70. 1753.

(Hangzhou Shi) [N Africa, SW Asia, S Europe].

凌风草 *ling feng cao*

Perennial, shortly rhizomatous. Culms loosely tufted, erect, 40–60 cm tall. Leaf sheaths smooth; leaf blades  $4\text{--}15$  cm  $\times$   $4\text{--}5$  mm, margins scabrid, otherwise smooth, apex subacute; ligule 0.5–1.5 mm, truncate. Panicle open, erect, ovate or pyramidal in outline, 4–18 cm, with many pendant spikelets; branches paired, obliquely ascending, sparingly branched; pedicels hairlike, longer than spikelets, flexuous. Spikelets broadly ovate,  $4\text{--}6 \times 5\text{--}7$  mm, shining, purplish, florets 4–8; lower glume 2.5–3 mm, 1-veined, upper glume 3–3.5 mm, 3–5-veined; lemmas orbicular, lowest 3–4 mm, 7–9-veined; palea obovate, slightly shorter than lemma, keels glabrous. Anthers 1.5–2 mm. Fl. and fr. Jul–Sep.  $2n = 14, 28$ .

Meadow slopes, grassy clearings in forests; 3600–3800 m. Sichuan, Xizang, Yunnan [Bhutan, N India, Kashmir, Nepal; SW Asia, Europe].

**2. *Briza minor*** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 70. 1753.

银鳞茅 *yin lin mao*

Annual. Culms usually solitary, erect, slender, 20–60 cm tall. Leaf sheaths thin, soft, smooth, loosely overlapping; leaf blades thin,  $4\text{--}12$  cm  $\times$   $4\text{--}10$  mm, adaxial surface and margins scabridulous, apex acute; ligule 3–6 mm, subacute. Panicle open, erect, broadly ovate in outline, 5–10 cm, with many pendant spikelets; branches mostly paired, very slender, obliquely spreading, scabrid; pedicels hairlike, mostly longer than spikelets, flexuous. Spikelets broadly ovate,  $3\text{--}5 \times$  ca. 4 mm, pale green, florets 3–8; glumes broad, 2–2.5 mm, 3–5-veined, apex rounded; lemmas very broadly ovate, wider than long, lowest 1.5–2 mm, 7–9-veined, back smooth and glossy or pubescent, membranous margins very broad; palea ovate, slightly shorter than lemma, back appressed pubescent or marginal hairs spreading and fringing keels, keels almost wingless, glabrous. Anthers ca. 0.4 mm.  $2n = 10$ .

Gardens, cultivated. Fujian, Guizhou, Jiangsu, Taiwan, Zhejiang

This is a ornamental grass with a delicate panicle of many small, rounded spikelets.

**3. *Briza maxima*** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 70. 1753.

大凌风草 da ling feng cao

Annual. Culms solitary or loosely tufted, erect or geniculate at base, 20–60 cm tall. Leaf sheaths smooth, glabrous; leaf blades thin, 4–20 cm × 3–8 mm, margins scabrid, otherwise smooth, apex acute; ligule 2–5 mm, obtuse. Panicle loose, nodding, 7–10 cm, sparingly branched with few pendant spikelets; branches inserted singly, scaberulous, sometimes with only 1 spikelet; pedicels hairlike, shorter or longer than spikelet, drooping. Spikelets ovate, ca. 1.2 × 1 cm, tinged reddish brown, florets 7–20; lower glume 5–6 mm, 5-veined, upper glume 6–7 mm, 7–9-veined, margins purple or tawny, apex broadly rounded; lemmas very broadly ovate, wider than long, lowest 7–8 mm, 7–9-veined, glabrous or appressed-pubescent; palea obovate, 1/2–2/3 length of lemma, back glabrous, keels pubescent. Anthers ca. 2 mm.  $2n = 14$ .

Gardens. Frequently cultivated in China [N Africa, S Europe].

This is a very attractive ornamental grass with a panicle of relatively few large spikelets. It is widely cultivated and an established introduction in many warm-temperate countries.

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