

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

凌风草属 ling feng cao shu

Lu Shenglian (卢生莲); Sylvia M. Phillips

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, scabrous, 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 × 10 mm; florets 10–12 3. *B. maxima*
1b. Panicle erect, with numerous spikelets; spikelets 3–6 × 4–7 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 4–15 cm × 4–5 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, 4–6 × 5–7 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, 4–12 cm × 4–10 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, 3–5 × 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.

