

71. **CATABROSA** P. Beauvois, Ess. Agrostogr. 97. 1812.

沿沟草属 *yan gou cao shu*

Wu Zhenlan (吴珍兰); Sylvia M. Phillips

Perennials, rhizomatous or stoloniferous. Leaf sheaths closed to middle or above; leaf blades linear, flat, glabrous; ligule membranous. Inflorescence an open or infrequently contracted panicle of many spikelets; branches minutely papillose; pedicels short. Spikelets with (1–)2(–3) florets, subterete, disarticulating below each floret; rachilla extended above floret, glabrous; glumes unequal, much shorter than florets, membranous, lower less than 1/2 spikelet length, 0–1-veined, upper up to 2/3 spikelet length, prominently 1–3-veined, apex truncate or broadly obtuse; lemmas broadly ovate to oblong, herbaceous or thinly membranous becoming hyaline toward apex, rounded on back, prominently 3-veined, lateral veins marginal, glabrous, apex broadly obtuse to truncate, erose, awnless; floret callus short, glabrous; palea subequal to lemma, keels smooth. Stamens 3. Caryopsis ellipsoid, hilum shortly oblong.  $x = 5$ .

Two to four species: temperate regions of both hemispheres, Chile; two species in China.

- 1a. Panicle narrow, dense, almost spikelike, branches short, adpressed or suberect ..... 1. *C. capusii*  
1b. Panicle open or loosely contracted, branches loosely ascending to spreading ..... 2. *C. aquatica*

**1. *Catabrosa capusii*** Franchet, Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot., sér. 6, 18: 272. 1884.

长颖沿沟草 *chang ying yan gou cao*

*Catabrosa aquatica* subsp. *capusii* (Franchet) Tzvelev.

Perennial, rhizomatous. Culms decumbent at base, up to 30(–60) cm tall. Leaf sheaths closed up to middle, loose, longer than internodes; leaf blades flat, soft, 3–8 cm × 2–4 mm, apex acute; ligule ca. 2 mm, obtuse. Panicle narrow, contracted, almost spikelike, interrupted below, 2–12 × 0.8–1.5 cm; branches less than 5 cm, adpressed or suberect, compactly spiculate to base. Spikelets with (1–)2 florets, 3–4 mm; glumes oblong, obscurely 1–3-veined, apex obtuse or erose, lower glume 0.5–2 mm, upper glume 1.5–2.3 mm; lemma 2–2.7 mm, brown flushed purple, smooth, apex truncate, denticulate. Anthers 1–1.5 mm. Fl. Jun–Aug.

Marshy ground and water meadows on high mountains; 3700–4900 m. Nei Mongol, Xizang [Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan; SW Asia (N Iran, N Iraq, E Turkey)].

Young panicles of *Catabrosa aquatica* can resemble the narrow panicle of this species.

**2. *Catabrosa aquatica*** (Linnaeus) P. Beauvois, Ess. Agrostogr. 97. 1812.

沿沟草 *yan gou cao*

Perennial, rhizomatous; rhizome stout, creeping. Culms erect, succulent, 20–70 cm tall, unbranched. Leaf sheaths closed up to middle, upper shorter than internodes; leaf blades equally wide throughout, soft, 5–20 cm × 2–8 mm, apex boat-shaped; ligule 2–5 mm, obtuse. Panicle open or loosely contracted at anthesis, ovate to oblong in outline, 10–30 × 4–12 cm; branches whorled, slender, usually obliquely ascending, up to 10 cm, often bare of spikelets in lower part. Spikelets with (1–)2(–3) florets, 2–4(–5.8) mm; glumes obtuse or subtruncate; lower glume ovate to suborbicular, 0.5–1.2(–2) mm; upper glume broadly elliptic, 1–2(–3) mm; lemma 1.5–3 mm, green becoming brown at maturity, usually glabrous, apex truncate. Anthers 1–2 mm. Fl. and fr. Apr–Aug.  $2n = 20$ .

Slow-moving, shallow water of river and streamsides, muddy pond margins, ditches; 800–4000 m. Gansu, Guizhou, Hebei, Hubei, Nei Mongol, Qinghai, Sichuan, Xinjiang, Xizang, Yunnan [Afghanistan, Kashmir, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan; SW Asia, Europe, North America].

*Catabrosa aquatica* is a widespread, polymorphic species of aquatic and marshy habitats, and extreme forms are sometimes accorded separate status, either at specific or infraspecific rank.

This species provides good forage.

- 1a. Culms 20–70 cm tall; panicle loose, open, branches to 10 cm; lemma 2–3 mm ..... 2a. var. *aquatica*  
1b. Culms up to 20 cm tall; panicle rather sparse, branches 1–2 cm; lemma 1.5–2.2 mm ..... 2b. var. *angusta*

**2a. *Catabrosa aquatica* var. *aquatica***

沿沟草(原变种) yan gou cao (yuan bian zhong)

*Aira aquatica* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 64. 1753; *Glyceria aquatica* (Linnaeus) J. Presl & C. Presl; *Poa airoides* Koeler.

Culms 20–70 cm tall, creeping and spreading. Leaf blades 5–20 cm × 4–8 mm. Panicle loose, open; branches slender, 2–6 cm, obliquely ascending or rarely horizontal. Lemma 2–3 mm. Fl. and fr. Apr–Aug.

Shallow water of river and streamsides, pond margins; 800–4000 m. Gansu, Guizhou, Hebei, Hubei, Nei Mongol, Qinghai, Sichuan, Xinjiang, Xizang, Yunnan [Afghanistan, Kashmir, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan; SW Asia, Europe, North America].

**2b. *Catabrosa aquatica* var. *angusta*** Stapf, J. D. Hooker, Fl. Brit. India 7: 311. 1896 [“1897”].

窄沿沟草 zhai yan gou cao

*Catabrosa angusta* (Stapf) L. Liu.

Culms up to 20 cm tall, shortly creeping, forming loose tufts. Leaf blades up to 5 cm × 1–2 mm. Panicle narrow, open; branches 1–2 cm, suberect. Lemma 1.5–2.2 mm. Fl. and fr. Apr–Sep.

• Mountains, wet grassy places, streamsides, pond margins; near sea level to 4800 m. Nei Mongol, Qinghai, Sichuan, Xizang.

This variety may simply represent small, depauperate plants from high altitudes. The panicle is more open than in *Catabrosa capusii*. Other small forms from high altitudes in the Himalayas and Qinghai, with an open panicle and deep purple spikelets, have been described as *C. sikkimensis* J. D. Hooker. These also intergrade completely with the main body of the species.

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