

224. **CHIONACHNE** R. Brown in J. J. Bennett & R. Brown, Pl. Jav. Rar. 15, 18. 1838.

葫芦草属 hu lu cao shu

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*Sclerachne* R. Brown.

Perennial or annual. Leaf blades linear; ligule membranous. Inflorescences axillary, of single racemes, each usually supported by a spatheole, often gathered into a spathate compound panicle; racemes bearing pairs of unisexual awnless spikelets, female and male spikelets separated into different zones, female pairs below male pairs, axis fragile between female pairs. Rachis internode and pedicel fused along one margin; callus truncate with central knob. Female zone: sessile spikelet dorsally compressed; lower glume leathery to bony, enveloping spikelet, body smooth or transversely constricted, flanks usually winged above; lower floret sterile, palea usually absent; upper floret pistillate, palea present; pedicelled spikelet reduced to vestigial. Male zone: spikelet pair similar, both or only sessile staminate; lower glume herbaceous, elliptic-oblong.

Nine species: India and Sri Lanka through SE Asia to the Philippines and Australia; one species in China.

1. **Chionachne massiei** Balansa, J. Bot. (Morot) 4: 78. 1890 ["massii"].

葫芦草 hu lu cao

*Polytoca massiei* (Balansa) Schenck ex Henrard ["massii"].

Annual. Culms loosely tufted, up to 50 cm tall, much branched, nodes bearded. Leaf sheaths papery, keeled, loose, slightly inflated, sparsely hairy; leaf blades narrowly lanceolate, flat or folded, thin, ca. 9–30 × 0.8–1.4 cm, glabrous or sparsely hairy with tubercle-based hairs, margins smooth or scaberulous, apex acuminate; ligule 0.5–1.5 mm. Racemes in spathate clusters of 2–4, each 2–8 cm; peduncles funnel-shaped with deep cupular apex straight across rim. Female sessile spikelets 1–3, 7–10 mm; lower glume hard, rounded, with 2 conspicuous transverse constrictions, lower margins abutting internode, abruptly contracted above into keeled, broadly winged beak; pedicelled spikelet rudimentary, comprising only a 1.5–4 mm

lower glume. Male spikelet pairs 1–2 on short internodes, encircled by uppermost female spikelet; male sessile and pedicelled spikelets 2.5–5 mm.

Meadows. Hainan [Laos, Thailand, N Vietnam].

This species is very similar to *Chionachne punctata* (R. Brown) Jannink (*Sclerachne punctata* R. Brown), from Indonesia, and the two have been confused. *Chionachne punctata* is a taller plant with longer leaf blades and also differs in having peduncles with an oblique, apical rim and an asperulous sessile lower glume with more broadly overlapping margins.

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