
肠须草属 chang xu cao shu

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Perennials, rarely annuals. Culms slender or stout, ± compressed. Leaf blades linear to filiform, apex tapering; ligule ciliate. Inflorescence a single raceme or sometimes digitate; racemes unilateral, slender; spikelets sessile, imbricate, biseriate, awned. Spikelets dorsally compressed, narrow, not gaping, florets 2(or 3), lowermost floret fertile, 2nd male or neuter floret sometimes present, uppermost floret reduced to a rudimentary awned lemma at rachilla apex, disarticulating above glumes; callus bearded; glumes shorter or upper as long as florets, lanceolate to subulate, membranous, 1-veined, acute to shortly awned; lemma of fertile floret broadly rounded to almost flat on back, subleathery, 3-veined, midvein prominent, raised, scabrous, apex 2-toothed, awned. Caryopsis narrowly elliptic, dorsally compressed, pericarp free. $x = 10$.

Nineteen species: throughout the tropics; two species in China.

Enteropogon is closely related to Chloris. The flattened fertile floret and caryopsis are the most reliable distinguishing features.

1a. Racemes 3–10; plant stout, 100–150 cm tall ..................................................................................................... 1. Enteropogon dolichostachyus

1b. Raceme usually 1 (occasionally 2 or 3); plant slender, 30–60 cm tall ....................................................................... 2. Enteropogon unispiceus


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Chloris dolichostachya Lagasca, Gen. Sp. Pl. 5. 1816.

Perennial. Culms erect or geniculately ascending, sometimes rooting at lower nodes, (0.5–)1–1.5(–2) m tall. Leaf sheaths glabrous or tuberculate-hispid, especially on margin, pilose at mouth; leaf blades linear, flat or rolled, 15–45 cm, 4–15 mm wide, scabrous, often tuberculate-hispid near ligule, apex setaceous; ligule ca. 0.4 mm. Racemes digitate, 3–10, ascending at first, later divaricate or drooping, 10–20 cm; rachis triquetrous, scaberulous. Spikelets with 2 florets; lower glume linear-lanceolate, 2–3 mm; upper glume lanceolate, 3–5 mm, awn-pointed; lemma of fertile floret oblong-lanceolate, 3.5–5 mm, glabrous, scabrous along either side of midvein and toward apex; awn 8–16 mm; palea linear-lanceolate, narrower than lemma, keels scabrous; upper floret reduced to an oblong 0.8–1.8 mm lemma with 2–5 mm awn, appressed to fertile floret. Fl. and fr. Mar.–Nov.

River valleys, fields, banks, roadsides, and thicket on hills; 200–1000 m. Hainan, S Taiwan, S Yunnan [Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Guinea, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand; N and NE Australia].

Enteropogon has traditionally been separated from Chloris on the basis of inflorescence form. Enteropogon has a single raceme, whereas Chloris has several digitate racemes. Thus this species has frequently been placed in Chloris. However, this inflorescence character is unreliable for separating the two genera, and a better separation is achieved on the basis of lemma and caryopsis compression, in which case this species falls within Enteropogon.


Chloris unispicea F. Mueller, Fragm. 7: 118. 1870; C. cheesemani Hackel ex Cheeseman; Enteropogon gracilior Rendle.

Perennial. Culms tufted, delicate, wiry, rooting at lower nodes, densely branched above base, 30–60 cm tall. Leaf sheaths glabrous or tuberculace-pilose, pilose at mouth; leaf blades linear, inrolled or flat, glaucous, 10–15 cm, 1–2 mm wide, scabrous, sometimes tuberculate-pilose on adaxial surface, apex finely acuminate; ligule ca. 0.3 mm. Raceme 1(–4), 4.5–11 cm; rachis triquetrous, scaberulous. Spikelets with 2 florets; lower glume lanceolate, 1.5–3.5 mm, acute; upper glume elliptic-oblong, 3.5–5.5 mm, mucronate; lemma of fertile floret oblong-lanceolate, 3.5 mm, smooth or scabrous above middle; awn 5–10 mm; palea narrowly lanceolate, scabrous on upper part; upper floret reduced to a rudimentary ca. 0.5 mm lemma with 1.3–1.5 mm awn, loosely appressed to fertile floret. Fl. and fr. Sep. 2n = 20.

Dry open slopes. S Taiwan [Australia (Queensland), Cook Island].