

220. EREMOCHLOA Buse in Miquel, Pl. Jungh. 357. 1854.

蜈蚣草属 wu gong cao shu

Sun Bixing (孙必兴 Sun Bi-sin); Sylvia M. Phillips

Perennial, tufted, stoloniferous or rhizomatous. Leaves mostly basal, leaf blades linear, flat or folded; ligule short, membranous. Inflorescence a single terminal raceme; raceme strongly flattened, spikelets overlapping along one side, disarticulating very tardily; rachis internodes narrowly clavate, nodes ciliate (in China), base truncate, sometimes with a low central peg. Sessile spikelet longer than rachis internode; lower glume elliptic-ovate to oblong, papery to leathery, 5–9-veined, marginally 2-keeled, keels pectinately spiny, often winged at apex; upper glume 3-veined, keeled along midvein, otherwise almost flat, often narrowly winged on lower keel; lower floret staminate, palea present; upper floret bisexual, upper lemma entire, awnless. Pedicelled spikelet absent or represented by a small bristle; pedicel free from and longer than adjacent internode, subulate to narrowly ovoid or leaflike.

Eleven species: India to SE Asia and Australia; five species in China.

This genus is easily recognizable by its distinctive inflorescence. The solitary, terminal, 1-sided raceme of closely overlapping spikelets does not break up readily into segments, and most species have spikelets with conspicuous, long spines along their margins.

- 1a. Plant with elongate stolons or rhizomes; lower glume broadly winged at apex.
 - 2a. Keels with very short inconspicuous spines 1. *E. ophiuroides*
 - 2b. Keels with long conspicuous spines 2. *E. muricata*
- 1b. Plant tufted; lower glume narrowly winged or wingless.
 - 3a. Lower glume of sessile spikelet usually wingless, often pubescent on back 3. *E. ciliaris*
 - 3b. Lower glume of sessile spikelet narrowly winged toward apex, glabrous on back.
 - 4a. Longest spines of lower glume shorter than glume width, usually ca. 1 mm; nodes of rachis obviously hairy; leaf blades hairy on basal margins, apex subacute 4. *E. bimaculata*
 - 4b. Longest spines of lower glume equaling or longer than glume width, 1.5–2.5 mm; nodes of rachis minutely hairy; leaf blades glabrous, apex cuspidate 5. *E. zeylanica*

1. Eremochloa ophiuroides (Munro) Hackel in A. Candolle & C. Candolle, Monogr. Phan. 6: 261. 1889.

假俭草 jia jian cao

Ischaemum ophiuroides Munro, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts 4: 363. 1860; *Eremochloa ophiuroides* var. *longifolia* Hayata.

Perennial, stoloniferous, mat-forming. Culms decumbent, rooting and branching, flowering shoots 15–30 cm tall. Leaf sheaths keeled, overlapping at base, hairy at mouth; leaf blades flat, (1–)3–10 × 0.2–0.4 cm, usually glabrous, apex obtuse; ligule 0.2–5 mm, margin ciliate. Raceme erect or slightly curved, 4–6 cm; rachis internodes narrowly oblong-clavate, glabrous, ca. 2.5 mm. Sessile spikelet 3.5–4 mm; lower glume oblong, ± leathery, shiny, glabrous, 5–7-veined, marginal spines very inconspicuous, short along incurving lower keels or reduced to knobs, apex acute but appearing broadly truncate because of flanking membranous wings. Pedicelled spikelet vestigial or absent; pedicel ± leaflike, ellipsoid-subulate. Fl. and fr. Jun–Oct. $2n = 18$.

Moist meadows, hillsides, especially on clay soils; 200–1200 m. Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Zhejiang [Vietnam].

This species is occasionally used as a lawn grass in warm regions, especially in the SE United States (Centipede Grass).

2. Eremochloa muricata (Retzius) Hackel in A. Candolle & C. Candolle, Monogr. Phan. 6: 262. 1889.

瘤糙假俭草 liu cao jia jian cao

Aegilops muricata Retzius, Observ. Bot. 2: 27. 1781; *Eremochloa truncata* W. C. Wu.

Perennial with slender spreading rhizomes. Culms decumbent, branching, up to 70 cm tall. Leaf sheaths glabrous; leaf blades flat or folded, 2–20 × 0.2–0.7 cm, glabrous or pilose, margins sometimes setose at base, apex acute or cuspidate; ligule 0.1–1 mm, margin ciliate. Raceme straight or almost so, 5–12 cm; rachis internodes oblong-clavate, glabrous, 2.5–4 mm. Sessile spikelet 4.5–5 mm; lower glume ovate or ovate-oblong, glabrous, 5–7-veined, marginal spines straight, often flattened toward base, longest 1–1.5 mm, shorter than glume width, apex acute, flanked by large, fanlike wings. Pedicelled spikelet absent; pedicel ± leaflike, obliquely obovoid.

Damp places. Guangdong (Guangzhou) [S India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand; N Australia].

3. Eremochloa ciliaris (Linnaeus) Merrill, Philipp. J. Sci. 1 (Suppl. 5): 331. 1906.

蜈蚣草 wu gong cao

Nardus ciliaris Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 53. 1753; *Eremochloa leersioides* (Munro) Hackel; *Ischaemum leersioides* Munro.

Perennial, densely tufted. Culms erect, slender, 20–60 cm tall, usually pubescent. Leaves crowded at base of culm, overlapping; leaf sheaths keeled, glabrous or pubescent; leaf blades folded, 3–15 × 0.1–0.4 cm, glabrous or pubescent, apex acute; ligule 0.5–1 mm. Raceme falcately curved, 2–5 cm; rachis internodes narrowly oblong, slightly expanded upward, puberulous to thinly hirsute, 1.8–2.5 mm. Sessile spikelet 3.5–4 mm; lower glume oblong-ovate, firmly papery, pubescent on back or subglabrous, 7-veined, marginal spines longer than glume

width, longest 1.5–5 mm, apex abruptly acute, usually wingless. Pedicelled spikelet absent; pedicel narrowly ellipsoid, ending in short point. Fl. and fr. Jul–Oct.

Dry grassy hillsides, meadows on sandy soils, roadsides; 300–2000 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Taiwan, Yunnan [Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam; Australia (N Queensland)].

4. *Eremochloa bimaculata* Hackel in A. Candolle & C. Candolle, Monogr. Phan. 6: 265. 1889.

西南马陆草 xi nan ma lu cao

Perennial, compactly tufted from a tough rootstock. Culms erect, slender, unbranched, 30–60 cm tall, glabrous. Leaves crowded at base of culm, overlapping; leaf sheaths keeled, glabrous except margins near blade; leaf blades flat or folded, 3–10 × 0.2–0.3 cm, glabrous except for basal margins, abruptly narrowed to subacute apex; ligule ca. 1 mm. Raceme gently curved, 3–6 cm; rachis internodes oblong-clavate, glabrous, 2.2–2.6 mm; nodes obviously hairy, hairs ca. 0.2 mm. Sessile spikelet 4–4.6 mm; lower glume ovate-oblong, papery, shiny, glabrous, 6–7-veined, marginal spines shorter than glume width, longest 1–1.5 mm, apex acute, flanked by narrow wings. Pedicelled spikelet vestigial; pedicel narrowly leaflike, tipped by a short spine.

Grassy hill slopes, thickets; 1000–1800 m. W Guizhou, Hubei, Sichuan, Yunnan [Cambodia, Myanmar, New Guinea, Thailand, Vietnam; Australia].

Eremochloa ophiuroides (Munro) Hackel var. *longispicula* W. C. Wu (S. W. China J. Agric. Sci. 6(2): 36. 1985), described from Guangdong (Guangzhou), may belong here. The type has not been seen.

5. *Eremochloa zeylanica* (Hackel ex Trimen) Hackel in A. Candolle & C. Candolle, Monogr. Phan. 6: 263. 1889.

马陆草 ma lu cao

Ischaemum zeylanicum Hackel ex Trimen, Syst. Cat. Pl. Ceylon 107. 1885.

Perennial, tufted. Culms erect, slender, branching, 20–60 cm tall. Leaves mostly basal, slightly overlapping; leaf sheaths glabrous, keeled; leaf blades flat or folded, (1–)3–10 × 0.1–0.5 cm, glabrous, apex rounded, cuspidate; ligule 0.3–0.6 mm, ciliate or glabrous. Raceme erect or curved, 3–6 cm; rachis internodes clavate, 2–3 mm; nodes minutely hairy, hairs ca. 0.1 mm. Sessile spikelet 4–5 mm; lower glume elliptic-ovate, papery, glabrous, inconspicuously veined, marginal spines terete, equaling or much longer than glume width, 1.5–2.5 mm, apex acute, flanked by narrow wings. Pedicelled spikelet a very small rudiment; pedicel subulate.

Herbage of hill slopes; 800–1500 m. W Guangxi, SE Yunnan [Sri Lanka].

A few specimens from China have the long spikelet spines of this species, which is otherwise known only from Sri Lanka.

Flora of China 22: 645–646. 2006.