

144. EUSTACHYS Desvaux, *Nouv. Bull. Sci. Soc. Philom. Paris* 2: 188. 1810.

真穗草属 zhen sui cao shu

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

Annuals or perennials. Leaf sheaths strongly keeled; leaf blades linear, flat or folded, apex often obtuse; ligule a ciliate rim. Inflorescence digitate; racemes unilateral, slender; spikelets sessile, tightly pectinate-imbricate, biseriate. Spikelets laterally compressed, florets 2, lower floret fertile, upper floret reduced to a small empty lemma, disarticulating above glumes; glumes about as long as florets, broad, membranous, 1-veined; lower glume awnless; upper glume with an oblique, stout, subapical awn; callus pubescent; lemma of fertile floret dark brown, keeled, broad, cartilaginous to leathery, 3-veined, hairy on veins, apex acute to emarginate, awnless or with a fine, subapical awn-point; palea nearly as long as lemma, keels scabrous or ciliate; upper floret cuneate or obovate, glabrous. Caryopsis ellipsoid, trigonous, pericarp reluctantly free.

Eleven species: tropics and subtropics, mainly in the New World; one species in China.

Eustachys is closely related to *Chloris*. The chief difference is the broad, subapically awned upper glume. The racemes of brown, very tightly packed spikelets, lacking conspicuous awns, impart a distinctive appearance different from *Chloris*.

1. *Eustachys tenera* (J. Presl) A. Camus, *Rev. Bot. Appl. Agric. Colon.* 5: 208. 1925 [*"tener"*].

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Cynodon tener J. Presl in C. Presl, *Reliq. Haenk.* 1: 291. 1830; *Chloris tenera* (J. Presl) Scribner; *Eustachys obtusifolia* A. Camus.

Plant stoloniferous. Culms slender, in flabellate tufts along the rooting stolons, laterally compressed, 15–30 cm tall. Leaf sheaths strongly keeled, keel scabrous, overlapping at base; leaf blades broadly linear, flat or folded, 1.5–7 cm, 3–5 mm wide, midvein on abaxial surface and margins scabrous, apex obtuse; ligule ca. 1 mm. Racemes 3–6, 4–7 cm; rachis triquetrous, scab-

rous on angles. Spikelets 1–1.2 mm, florets 2; glumes boat-shaped, keeled, scabrous on vein, ca. 1 mm; lower glume subacute; upper glume truncate, awn 0.3–0.5 mm; lemma of fertile floret broadly boat-shaped, ca. 1.2 mm, leathery, pilose along keel and incurving margins; palea obovate, narrower than lemma, keels scabrous; upper lemma much reduced, cuneate, lying within concave back of palea of fertile floret. Caryopsis brownish, plump, ca. 0.7 mm. Fl. and fr. Jun–Nov.

Grasslands, thickets, open weedy places, at low altitudes. Guangdong, Hainan, Taiwan [Indonesia, Malaysia, New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam].

This species is used as a lawn grass.

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