

81. HOLCUS Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 1047. 1753, nom. cons.

绒毛草属 rong mao cao shu

Wu Zhenlan (吴珍兰); Sylvia M. Phillips

Sorghum Adanson (1763), not *Sorghum* Moench (1794).

Annuals or perennials. Leaf blades flat. Inflorescence a moderately to densely contracted panicle. Spikelets laterally compressed, disarticulating below glumes, florets 2, lower floret bisexual, upper floret staminate; rachilla usually curved and hooked below bisexual floret, often shortly extended above staminate floret; glumes subequal, papery, enclosing florets, strongly keeled, lower glume 1-veined, upper glume 3-veined; lemmas cartilaginous, shiny, rounded on back, veins indistinct, apex obtuse or 2-toothed, upper lemma or both awned; awn arising from upper 1/3 of lemma back, geniculate, hooked or straight; palea slightly shorter than lemma, membranous.

Eight species: N Africa, SW Asia, Europe; one species (introduced) in China.

1. *Holcus lanatus* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 1048. 1753.

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Avena lanata (Linnaeus) Koeler; *Notholcus lanatus* (Linnaeus) Nash ex Hitchcock.

Perennial, softly hairy. Culms tufted, erect or geniculate at base, 30–80 cm tall, pubescent, 4–5-noded. Leaf sheaths loose, tomentose with reflexed hairs; leaf blades flat, 6–18 cm, 3–9 mm wide, soft, both surfaces pubescent, apex acute; ligule 2–3 mm, truncate or toothed. Panicle lanceolate to oblong or ovate in outline, rather loose to very dense, 3–12 cm; branches narrowly ascending, pubescent. Spikelets oblong or gaping, 3.5–6

mm, pale grayish green or purplish; glumes lanceolate, keel and veins hispidulous, surface scabrid or puberulent to villous, lower glume apex acute, upper glume wider and sometimes slightly longer than lower glume, apex mucronate; florets subequal, 2–2.5 mm; rachilla ca. 0.5 mm; lower lemma awnless, anthers 1.8–2 mm; upper lemma with hooked 1–2 mm awn, anthers ca. 1.5 mm. Fl. and fr. May–Oct.

Open ground, meadows, moist places; an adventive occasionally cultivated as a meadow grass. Jiangxi, Taiwan, Yunnan [native to Europe].

This European grass is now introduced as a weed in most temperate parts of the world.

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