
膜稃草属 mo fu cao shu

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Aquatic perennials. Culms long, decumbent, spongy, rooting at lower nodes, internodes solid, filled with aerenchyma. Leaf blades linear or broadly linear. Inflorescence usually a cylindrical spikelet-like panicle, rarely with spreading primary branches. Spikelets lanceolate, dorsally compressed, veins prominent, florets 2; lower glume usually about 1/3 spikelet length, base clasping; upper glume shorter than or subequaling spikelet, 5-veined; lower lemma as long as spikelet, 5-veined, apex acute to shortly awned; lower palea absent or much reduced; upper lemma membranous, rarely thinly cartilaginous, smooth, margins hyaline, gripping edges of palea below but free toward apex, apex acute.

Five species: tropics of the Old World and New World; three species (one endemic) in China.

Hymenachne is a genus of swamp grasses similar to Sacciolepis, and both are segregates from the large genus Panicum. The culms of Sacciolepis are hollow, but in Hymenachne they are filled with aerenchyma.

1a. Panicle open, up to 9 cm wide; spikelets loose; culm nodes villous .................................................. 1. H. patens

1b. Panicle spike-like, 1–2 cm wide; spikelets dense; culm nodes glabrous.

2a. Spikelets 4–6 mm; upper glume and lower lemma cuspidate-acuminate or extended into mucro up to 2 mm .............................................................................................................................. 2. H. amplexicaulis

2b. Spikelets 2–3.2 mm; upper glume and lower lemma acute to acuminate.

3a. Spikelets 3–3.2 mm, lanceolate, acuminate .................................................................................................... 3. H. assamica

3b. Spikelets 2–2.5 mm, ovate-lanceolate, acute .......................................................................................... 10. Panicum auritum (see p. 507)


膜稃草 zhan sui mo fu cao

Culms decumbent, ascending to ca. 50 cm, nodes 4 or 5, villous. Leaf blades linear-lanceolate, 10–20 × 0.5–1 cm, glabrous on both surfaces, base rounded and clasping, apex acuminate. Panicle 15–20 × 4–9 cm, open; branches 5–12 cm, distant, laxly ascending, spikelets on side branchlets, 2 or 3 per node; pedicels 1–2 mm, smooth. Spikelets green or brownish green, 3.2–4 × ca. 1 mm, acute; lower glume 1/3–1/2 as long as spikelet, 3–5-veined; upper glume subequal to spikelet, herbaceous with membranous margins, 5-veined, acute; lower lemma similar to upper glume but slightly longer; upper lemma slightly shorter than spikelet, thinly cartilaginous, smooth, margins flat below middle, apex acute. Anthers ca. 1 mm. Fl. and fr. Jun–Oct.

- Wet field margins; ca. 100 m. Anhui, Fujian, Jiangxi.

The open panicle and villous nodes are very unusual in Hymenachne, but the spikelets are typical of the genus.


膜稃草 mo fu cao


Culms decumbent, up to 1 m tall, 6–10 mm in diam.; nodes many, brown, glabrous. Leaf blades broadly linear, thick, 30–40 × ca. 2 cm, glabrous or the adaxial surface and margins loosely tuberculate-hairy, base rounded and slightly clasping, apex acuminate. Ligule membranous, 1–2 mm. Panicle 20–40 × 1–2 cm; spikelet, branches 0.5–2 cm, erect, appressed; rachis winged; pedicels scabrous. Spikelets narrowly lanceolate, 4.5–6 × ca. 1 mm, veins smooth at base, otherwise scabrous; both glumes and lower lemma separated by a short stipe; lower glume ovate, ca. 1.2 mm, 1-veined, acuminate; upper glume and lower lemma lanceolate, 3–4 mm, apex with 0.5–2 mm awn; upper lemma ca. 3 mm, margins flat, apex acuminate. Anthers 0.75–1 mm. Caryopsis ca. 1.5 mm, apex rounded. Fl. and fr. summer to autumn.

Streams in shallow water, ricefields; below 1000 m. Hainan, Taiwan, Yunnan [India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam].

3. Hymenachne assamica (J. D. Hooker) Hitchcock, Lingnan Sci. J. 7: 222. 1931 [“1929”].

弊草 bi cao

Panicum assamicum J. D. Hooker, Fl. Brit. India 7: 40. 1896 [“1897”].

Culms decumbent, 50–70 cm tall, ca. 5 mm in diam., nodes many, brown, glabrous. Leaf sheaths with one margin tuberculate-ciliate; leaf blades linear-lanceolate, 10–20 × 0.4–1.2 cm, a few setae at base above ligule, base rounded, apex acuminate; ligule 0.3–0.5 mm. Panicle narrow, dense, pale green, 8–18 × 1–3 cm; branches 1–4 cm, appressed to rachis with tightly clustered spikelets; rachis scabrous, narrowly winged; pedicels 0.2–0.8 mm, scabrous. Spikelets lanceolate, 3.2–3.3 × ca. 1 mm, veins scabrous toward apex, otherwise smooth, glumes and lower lemma not separated; lower glume broadly ovate, 1/3 spikelet length, 1–5-veined, acute; upper glume slightly shorter or as long as lower lemma, 5-veined,
nearly smooth, sharply acute; lower lemma as long as spikelet, sharply acute; upper lemma ca. 2.5 mm, margins flat for most of their length or only toward apex, apex acute. Fl. and fr. Jul–Oct.

Streams. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Yunnan [NE India, Thailand].