

129. LEPTOCHLOA P. Beauvois, Ess. Agrostogr. 71. 1812.

千金子属 qian jin zi shu

Chen Shouliang (陈守良); Sylvia M. Phillips

Diplachne P. Beauvois.

Annuals or perennials. Leaf blades linear; ligule membranous, sometimes with a ciliate fringe. Inflorescence open, composed of several to many slender racemes of usually imbricate spikelets scattered along a central axis. Spikelets laterally compressed or subterete, florets 1 to several, rachilla disarticulating above glumes and between florets; glumes usually shorter than lemmas, unequal, membranous, 1-veined; lemmas membranous, 3-veined, generally hairy along the veins, keeled or rounded, obtuse or 2-dentate, sometimes mucronate to short-awned; palea equal to or slightly shorter than lemma. Stamens (1-)3. Caryopsis laterally or dorsally compressed. $x = 10$.

Thirty-two species: throughout the tropics and in warm-temperate parts of America and Australia; three species in China.

- 1a. Spikelets 6–10 mm, subterete, slightly imbricate or distant on indistinctly unilateral racemes; lemmas shortly awned; perennial 1. *L. fusca*
- 1b. Spikelets 1.4–4 mm, laterally compressed, imbricate on clearly unilateral racemes; lemmas not awned; annual.
 - 2a. Leaf sheaths and blades glabrous; racemes flexuose; spikelets 2–4 mm, 3–6(–7)-flowered 2. *L. chinensis*
 - 2b. Leaf sheaths and blades pilose; racemes straight; spikelets 1.4–2 mm; 2–4-flowered 3. *L. panicea*

1. *Leptochloa fusca* (Linnaeus) Kunth, Révis. Gramin. 1: 91. 1829.

双稔草 shuang fu cao

Festuca fusca Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 2: 876. 1759; *Diplachne fusca* (Linnaeus) P. Beauvois ex Roemer & Schultes; *D. malabarica* (Linnaeus) Merrill, nom. rej.; *Leptochloa malabarica* (Linnaeus) Veldkamp, nom. rej.; *Poa malabarica* Linnaeus, nom. rej.

Perennial, loosely tufted to rhizomatous. Culms erect or geniculate and rooting from lower nodes, up to 100 cm or more tall. Leaf sheaths glabrous; leaf blades tough, usually involute, 5–30(–50) × 0.15–0.3(–0.6) cm, adaxial surface scabrid, abaxial surface subglabrous; ligule 3–12 mm, acute. Inflorescence 15–25 cm, scabrid; racemes 3–28, indistinctly unilateral, 4–20 cm, straight, ascending or spreading, spikelets usually distant. Spikelets glaucous-green, subterete, 6–14 mm, florets 5–12; glumes keeled; lower glume lanceolate, 2–3 mm, acute; upper glume narrowly oblong, 3–4 mm, acute or mucronate; lemmas narrowly oblong, dorsally subrounded, lowest 4–5 mm, lower lateral veins pilose, entire or 2-dentate, midvein often produced into a short 0.3–1.6 mm awn; palea ciliolate along upper keels. Callus laterally pilose. Anthers 0.5–0.75(–2.5) mm. Caryopsis elliptic-oblong, 1.5–2.5 mm, dorso-ventrally flattened. Fl. and fr. Jun–Sep. $2n = 20$.

Shallow water, marshy, sometimes brackish ground. Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Hainan, Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Jiangsu, Liaoning, Shandong, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand; Africa, SW Asia, Australia].

This is a widespread, polymorphic species varying in habit, height, and robustness of the culm, compactness of the inflorescence, and in the lemma tip. It is a salt-tolerant species and is known to excrete salt through glands on the leaves.

2. *Leptochloa chinensis* (Linnaeus) Nees, Syll. Pl. Nov. 1: 4.

1824.

千金子 qian jin zi

Poa chinensis Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 69. 1753.

Annual or sometimes perennial. Culms erect, geniculate or decumbent and rooting from nodes, 30–100 cm tall, smooth and glabrous. Leaf sheaths glabrous; leaf blades flat or slightly involute, 5–25 × 0.2–0.9 cm, glabrous, scabrid on both surfaces or abaxial surface smooth, apex acuminate; ligule membranous, 1–5 mm. Inflorescence 10–50 cm; racemes numerous, unilateral, to 10 cm, slender, flexuose, laxly ascending, rachis scabrid, spikelets usually imbricate. Spikelets purplish or brownish green, narrowly elliptic-oblong, laterally compressed, 2–4 mm, florets 3–7; glumes scabrid along keels and sometimes laterally; lower glume lanceolate, 1–1.5 mm, acute; upper glume elliptic-oblong, 1.2–2 mm, obtuse; lemmas elliptic-oblong, keeled, lowest ca. 1.5 mm, shortly appressed-hairy along lower margins and on either side of midvein, obtuse or minutely emarginate; palea minutely hispid on keels, appressed hairy on back and flaps. Anthers ca. 0.5 mm. Caryopsis oblong, 0.7–0.9 mm, plano-convex. Fl. and fr. Aug–Oct. $2n = 40$.

Moist places; 200–1000 m. Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Shaanxi, Shandong, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; Africa].

This species is a forage grass.

3. *Leptochloa panicea* (Retzius) Ohwi, Bot. Mag. (Tokyo) 55: 311. 1941.

虬子草 *ji zi cao*

Poa panicea Retzius, *Observ. Bot.* 3: 11. 1783; *Cynosurus tenerrimus* Hornemann; *Eleusine tenerrima* (Hornemann) Hornemann; *Leptochloa tenerrima* (Hornemann) Roemer & Schultes.

Annual. Culms tufted, slender, ascending, 30–80 cm tall. Leaf sheaths papillate-pilose with spreading hairs; leaf blades thin, flat, 4–18 × 0.3–0.6 cm, glabrous or pilose, attenuate; ligule membranous, 1–2 mm, usually lacerate. Inflorescence 10–30(–50) cm, brushlike; racemes 5–35, unilateral, 2–11 cm, very slender, straight, ascending, rachis scabrid, spikelets imbricate. Spikelets glaucous-green or purplish green, elliptic, lightly laterally compressed, 1.4–2 mm, florets 2–4; glumes scabrid along keel; lower glume lanceolate, 0.7–1.5 mm, apex acuminate; upper glume narrowly oblong, 0.9–1.6 mm, cuspidate or obtuse and mucronate; lemmas elliptic-oblong, keeled, lowest 0.8–1.3 mm, veins puberulous, usually also a few appressed hairs between veins, obtuse; palea keels scaberulous. Anthers ca. 0.2 mm. Caryopsis broadly elliptic, 0.7–0.8 mm, obtusely trigonous, apex obtuse. Fl. and fr. Jul–Oct.

Roadsides, rice fields, damp weedy places. Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guizhou, Hainan, Henan, Hubei, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; Africa, America].

All Old World material of this species belongs to the typical race, subsp. *panicea*. Two further subspecies occur in America.

This species is an excellent forage grass.

Flora of China 22: 469–470. 2006.