

## 112. LOPHATHERUM Brongniart in Duperrey, Voy. Monde 2: 49. 1831.

淡竹叶属 dan zhu ye shu

Perennials with spindle-shaped root tubers. Culms unbranched. Leaf blades all caudine, narrowly lanceolate, strongly many-veined with obvious cross veinlets, pseudopetiolate. Inflorescence of loose or dense unilateral racemes spaced on a central axis. Spikelets falling entire, floret 1, rachilla extension bearing a bunch of up to 9 smaller sterile lemmas, cross veinlets evident on glumes and lemmas; glumes unequal, 5–7-veined, apex obtuse; fertile lemma 7-veined, all lemmas with a retrorsely scaberulous awn, those of the sterile lemmas developing into a fan of recurved hooks at maturity. Stamens 2 or 3.

Two species: warm-temperate and tropical Asia: two species in China.

- 1a. Spikelets narrowly lanceolate, subterete, 1.5–2.5 mm broad, patent at maturity; lowest lemma with straight back ..... 1. *L. gracile*  
1b. Spikelets ovate, lightly flattened, 3–4 mm broad, imbricate at maturity; lowest lemma with gibbous back ..... 2. *L. sinense*

**1. Lophatherum gracile** Brongniart in Duperrey, Voy. Monde 2: 50. 1831.

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*Acroelytrum japonicum* Steudel; *Lophatherum annulatum* Franchet & Savatier; *L. elatum* Zollinger & Moritz; *L. gracile* var. *elatum* (Zollinger & Moritz) Hackel; *L. gracile* var. *pilosulum* (Steudel) Hackel; *L. humile* Miquel; *L. japonicum* (Steudel) Steudel; *L. lemannii* Nees ex Steudel; *L. multiflorum* Steudel; *L. pilosulum* Steudel; *L. zeylanicum* J. D. Hooker.

Culms tufted from a knotty rootstock, slender, stiffly erect, 60–150 cm tall. Leaf sheaths glabrous or pilose; leaf blades lanceolate, 5–30 × 2–5 cm, glabrous or with long hairs on both surfaces, base rounded to a 8–12 mm pseudopetiole; ligule brown, hispid on backside. Inflorescence 10–25 cm; racemes few, 5–10 cm, loosely spiculate, erect at first with appressed spikelets, later obliquely spreading and spikelets patent; pedicels short, thick. Spikelets narrowly lanceolate, subterete, 7–12 mm, base glabrous or hairy; glumes ovate, rounded on back, subleathery with membranous margins; lower glume 3–4.5 mm, 5-veined, glabrous or stiffly hairy near margins and apex; upper glume ca. 5 mm, 5–7-veined, glabrous; lemma of fertile floret oblong with straight back, not keeled, 6–7 mm; palea lanceolate, hyaline; awn of fertile and sterile lemmas 1.5–2 mm. Fl. and fr. Jun–Sep.  $2n = 48^*$ .

Shady slopes, roadsides and in moist forests. Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, S Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Guinea, Philippines,

Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; Australia (Queensland), Pacific Islands (Polynesia)].

This species is used for medicinal purposes. The leaves are reminiscent of those of bamboos. The barbed awns catch in the fur of passing animals, effecting dispersal of the spikelet.

**2. Lophatherum sinense** Rendle, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 36: 421. 1904.

中华淡竹叶 zhong hua dan zhu ye

Culms tufted, stiffly erect, up to 110 cm tall. Leaf sheaths usually glabrous; leaf blades lanceolate, 15–20 × 3–5 cm, base rounded to a pseudopetiole; ligule very small. Inflorescence 15–25 cm, racemes few, distant, up to 5 cm, closely spiculate with subsessile imbricate spikelets. Spikelets obliquely ovate, flattened, 7–10 mm; glumes broadly ovate, weakly keeled, 5(–7)-veined; lower glume ca. 4 mm; upper glume ca. 5 mm; lemma of fertile floret broadly ovate with gibbous back, keeled, ca. 6 mm, palea shorter than lemma; awn of fertile and sterile lemmas ca. 1 mm. Fl. and fr. Aug–Oct.  $2n = 48^*$ .

Shady hillsides by streams. Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Zhejiang [Japan, S Korea].

This species is very similar to *Lophatherum gracile* vegetatively, but has different spikelets.

