

174. MELINIS P. Beauvois, Ess. Agrostogr. 54. 1812.

糖蜜草属 tang mi cao shu

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Rhynchelytrum Nees.

Annuals or perennials. Culms tufted, often decumbent at the base. Leaf sheaths usually loose; leaf blades linear; ligule a ciliate rim. Inflorescence a panicle; pedicels slender, glabrous or with a few long hairs at the tip. Spikelets elliptic or oblong, laterally compressed, hairy or glabrous; lower glume small or absent; upper glume as long as spikelet, membranous to papery, 5–9-veined, acute, emarginate or 2-lobed, awned or awnless, sometimes gibbous on the back and tapering to a beak; lower floret staminate or neuter, lemma resembling the upper glume, 3–7-veined, palea with ciliate or scaberulous keels or absent; upper floret laterally compressed, membranous to thinly cartilaginous, readily deciduous. $x = 9$.

Twenty-two species: mainly in tropical and S Africa; two species introduced throughout the tropics, including China.

- 1a. Leaf blades densely tomentose, sticky; panicle dark purple; spikelets 1.7–2.2 mm, usually glabrous 1. *M. minutiflora*
1b. Leaf blades glabrous; panicle silvery-pink; spikelets 2–12 mm, conspicuously villous with fluffy spreading hairs 2. *M. repens*

1. *Melinis minutiflora* P. Beauvois, Ess. Agrostogr. 54. 1812.

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Muhlenbergia brasiliensis Steudel; *Panicum melinis* Tri-nius, nom illeg. superfl.; *P. minutiflorum* (P. Beauvois) Raspail; *Suardia picta* Schrank; *Tristegis glutinosa* Nees.

Perennial. Culms tufted, geniculately ascending, rooting at lower nodes, 50–150 cm tall. Leaf sheaths and blades densely tomentose with glandular hairs, slightly sticky with a strong smell; leaf blades linear, 5–20 × 0.5–1.5 cm. Panicle purplish, narrowly ovate, 10–20 cm; pedicels glabrous, scaberulous, rarely with a few hairs toward the apex. Spikelets narrowly ovate-oblong, 1.7–2.2 mm; lower glume ovate, 0.1–0.4 mm, veinless; upper glume prominently 7-veined, obtusely 2-lobed, awnless or with a mucro to 1 mm from the sinus; lower floret neuter without a palea, lemma similar to upper glume but narrower, prominently 5-veined, acutely 2-lobed, awnless or with a slender awn to 15 mm from the sinus; upper floret whitish, thinly cartilaginous, smooth, shining, slightly shorter than lower lemma. Fl. and fr. Jul–Oct. $2n = 36$.

Introduced into S China as a fodder grass, locally naturalized. Hong Kong, Taiwan, Yunnan [native to Africa].

This species has been introduced into many tropical countries for fodder (Molasses Grass).

2. *Melinis repens* (Willdenow) Zizka, Biblioth. Bot. 138: 55. 1988.

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Saccharum repens Willdenow, Sp. Pl., ed. 4, 1: 322. 1797; *Rhynchelytrum repens* (Willdenow) C. E. Hubbard; *R. roseum* (Nees) Stapf & C. E. Hubbard; *Tricholaena rosea* Nees.

Annual or loosely tufted short-lived perennial. Culms geniculately ascending, often rooting at lower nodes, up to 150 cm tall. Leaf sheaths loose, usually with tubercle-based hairs; leaf blades linear, up to 20 × 0.2–1.4 cm. Panicle silvery-pink or purple, ovate to oblong, 8–20 cm, fluffy; branches capillary; pedicels with a few long hairs. Spikelets ovate, 2–4.5 mm, densely villous, hairs up to 6 mm; lower glume narrowly oblong, 0.3–1.5 mm, 1-veined, with stiff short hairs, separated from the upper by a short internode; upper glume 5-veined, gibbous below middle, tapering upward into a glabrous membranous beak 1/4–1/2 its length, emarginate, mucronate or with short awn up to 1 mm; lower floret staminate, lemma similar to upper glume but narrower and less gibbous, palea keels ciliate; upper floret whitish, thinly cartilaginous, smooth, shining, ca. 2 mm. Fl. and fr. Jun–Nov. $2n = 36$.

Grasslands, open or disturbed places, naturalized. Fujian, Guangdong, Taiwan [native to Africa].

This is a polymorphic, pantropical weed, recognizable by its pink, fluffy panicles.

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