

69. MILIUM Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 61. 1753.

粟草属 su cao shu

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Annual or perennial. Leaf blades flat; ligule membranous. Inflorescence a terminal open panicle. Spikelets elliptic or ovate, with 1 floret, bisexual, slightly dorsally compressed, disarticulating above glumes, rachilla extension absent; glumes subequal, as long as spikelet, herbaceous, persistent, 3-veined; callus very short, obtuse, glabrous; lemma elliptic, slightly shorter than glumes, leathery becoming indurated and glossy at maturity, smooth, glabrous, obscurely 5-veined, margins involute, apex acute, awnless; palea resembling lemma in texture, 2-veined, not keeled. Lodicules 2. Stamens 3.

Five species: Europe eastward to Japan, also in E North America; one species in China.

This genus has often been placed in *Stipeae*, but molecular evidence shows its relationship lies within *Poeae*.

1. *Milium effusum* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 61. 1753.

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Perennial, shortly rhizomatous. Culms loosely tufted, erect, slender, 0.9–1.5 m tall, smooth, glabrous, 3–5-noded. Leaf sheaths loose, slightly inflated, glabrous; leaf blades broadly linear to linear-lanceolate, thin, soft, 10–30 cm, 5–15 mm wide, glabrous, abaxial surface gray-green, adaxial surface green, margins scaberulous, apex acute; ligule lanceolate, 2–10 mm. Panicle ovate or pyramidal in outline, very lax, 10–30 cm; branches in clusters of up to 6, slender, flexuous, spreading or deflexed, smooth or scabrid, lower part bare. Spikelets 3–4 mm,

gray-green or tinged with purple; glumes elliptic-ovate, scaberulous, margins white, apex acute; lemma glossy, milky-white when young, brown at maturity. Anthers 2–3 mm. Fl. and fr. May–Jul. $2n = 14, 28$.

Forests, moist shady places; 700–3500 m. Anhui, Gansu, Guizhou, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Liaoning, Ningxia, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Xinjiang, Xizang, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Afghanistan, Bhutan, Japan, E Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan; SW Asia, Europe, North America].

This is a good forage grass. The culms are used for weaving.

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