
少穗竹属 shao sui zhu shu

Wang Zhengping (王正平 Wang Cheng-ping); Chris Stapleton

Clavinodum T. H. Wen.

Shrubby to arborescent bamboos. Rhizomes leptomorph, with running underground stems. Culms diffuse, sometimes clustering; internodes not terete, flattened above branches; nodes ± elevated; intranode (3–)5 mm. Culm sheaths caducous or tardily deciduous, rarely persistent, leathery or papery; auricles and oral setae absent or sometimes weakly developed; blade spreading or reflexed, sometimes erect. Branches 3(–7) at each node in midculm, spreading. Leaf auricles and oral setae absent or weakly developed; blade small, transverse veins distinct. Inflorescence a raceme with 2 or 3(–6) spikelets, rarely a panicle with many spikelets, peduncle, axis, branches, and pedicels slender, glabrous, scabrous or pubescent along longitudinal angles, branches usually subtended by a scaly bract at base. Spikelets ± compressed at maturity, several to many florets; rachilla disarticulating below fertile florets, extended beyond palea of uppermost floret, internodes flattened or concave on side facing floret. Glumes (1–3)(–5), transitional with basal, sterile lemmas; lemma 7- to many veined, abaxially commonly puberulent and with distinct tessellation, adaxially slightly scabrous with minute setulae, apex acuminate with an awnlike point; palea conspicuously smaller than lemma or equaling in length but much narrower in upper florets, abaxially minutely setulate, 2-keeled, 2–4-veined between and beside keels, apex obtuse or emarginate; lodicules 3, membranous with thickened lower portion, 5–7-veined, margins ciliate, anterior pair of lodicules usually asymmetrical. Stamens 3 or 4(or 5). Ovary glabrous; style 1; stigmas (2 or)3, plumose.

● At least 15 species: China.

Oligostachyum is similar to Acidosasa, from which it differs in having florets with no more than 5 stamens.

1a. Culm internodes obclavate, lower ones gradually thickened downward; midculm branches 3–7 per node, subequal in diam. ...................................................................................................................................................  1. O. oedogonatum

1b. Culm internodes of culm cylindrical, not thickened, midculm branches 3 per node, or if more than 3, then conspicuously unequal in diam.

2a. Culm internodes pitted (like pigskin) below nodes; fertile lemma 15- or 16-veined ....................................... 15. O. puberulum

2b. Culm internodes not pitted; fertile lemma where known 7–15-veined.

3a. Culm sheaths dark brown or straw-colored with gray-black upper margins when dry; leaf sheath ligule more than 2 mm.

3b. Culm sheaths uniformly straw-colored when dry; leaf sheath ligule less than 2 mm.

4a. Basal culm sheaths with longitudinal spots or streaks ........................................................................ 5. O. scabriflorum

4b. Culm sheaths without spots.

7a. Culm sheath blade narrow, narrowly linear or linear-lanceolate; culm sheath auricles absent.

7b. Culm sheath blade broad, lanceolate, triangular-lanceolate, or linear-lanceolate; culm sheath auricles present or absent.

11a. Leaf blade linear or linear-lanceolate; culm sheaths glabrous ......................................................... 14. O. paniculatum

11b. Leaf blade lanceolate or elliptic-lanceolate, rarely linear-lanceolate; culm sheaths hairy.

12a. Culm sheaths centrally glabrous.

13a. Culm sheaths pubescent at base only; culm sheath and leaf sheath auricles usually present, oral setae developed; culm sheath blade glabrous on both surfaces ...........................................  6. O. glabrescens
13b. Culm sheaths hairy basally, along both sides, and apically; auricles absent, oral setae not developed, culm sheath blade hirtellous on both surfaces ............ 7. O. scopulum

12b. Culm sheaths uniformly setose or strigose.

14a. Culm sheaths without auricles and oral setae, uniformly thickly white powdery ................................................................. 8. O. sulcatum

14b. Culm sheaths with small auricles and developed oral setae, without powder or powdery only below nodes when young.

15a. Culm internodes setulose, white powdery below nodes and gray-green with minute, purple speckles when young ...... 9. O. shiuyingianum

15b. Culm internodes glabrous, not white powdery, uniformly green when young ................................................................. 10. O. lubricum


Culms ca. 4.5 m, ca. 0.8 cm in diam.; internodes initially dull green becoming gray-green, sometimes with minute dark purple dots, to 33 cm, basally swollen, white powdery, glabrous; supra-nodal ridge strongly elevated, much more prominent than slightly elevated sheath scar. Branches (3–)5(–7) per node, horizontally spreading, subequal in diam. Culm sheaths purple-green, basally, marginally, and apically dark purple, thinly white powdery, lower and middle culm sheaths rather densely strigose; auricles deciduous, deep purple, small; oral setae 3–5, purple; ligule subtruncate, ca. 3 mm, margins subglabrous; blade erect or spreading, deep purple, lanceolate to linear-ar. Leaves 2 or 3 per ultimate branch; sheath glabrous throughout; auricles deciduous, deep purple, narrowly falcate; oral setae several; ligule arcuate, ca. 2 mm, margin subglabrous; blade linear-lanceolate, 13–25 × 0.7–3.9 cm, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins 5–8-paired. Racemes 4–6 cm, with 2 or 3 spikelets; peduncles slender, enclosed by sheathlike bracts, bracts gradually larger; axis slender, glabrous; pedicels ca. 1.5 cm, slender, glabrous or sometimes sparsely pubescent, angles slightly scabrous. Spikelets 1.5–5 cm; florets several to many. Rachilla readily disarticulating below fertile florets, internodes 2–3.5 mm, angles and apex ciliate. Glumes 1–3, first small, second and third resembling lemma, ca. 1.1 cm, 7–9-veined; lemma 1.3–1.6 cm, 7–11-veined, hirtellous, margins ciliate, apex acuminate with an awnlike point; palea 8–10 mm, keels rigidly ciliate in upper 2/3; apex obtuse or emarginate; lodicules 3. Stamens 3(–5); anthers 4–5 mm. Style 1; stigmas 3. New shoots May, fl. Apr–May.

- Open forests on slopes; below 1500 m. S Zhejiang (N Wuyi Shan)


凤竹 feng zhu


Culms ca. 5.5 m, 1–2.5 cm in diam.; internodes green-purple, to 23 cm, initially retrorsely white setulose; wall ca. 3 mm thick; nodes elevated, supra-nodal ridge more prominent than sheath scar; sheath scar with persistent base of sheath and deciduous ring of hairs. Culm sheaths deciduous, purple-green when fresh, pale brown when dry, papery, strigose, densely retrorsely puberulent at base, margins brown ciliate; auricles and oral setae absent; ligule pale brown, arcuate, abaxially hispidulous, white ciliate; blade deciduous with articulate base, erect, narrowly triangular to linear-lanceolate, both surfaces pubescent especially toward base, margins brown ciliate. Leaves 1–3 per ultimate branch; sheath pubescent especially on upper part; ligule 1–3 mm, puberulent; blade oblong-lanceolate, 6–15 × 0.6–1.6 cm, glabrous or abaxially pilose at base of mid-vein. Rachemes with 2 or 3(–5) spikelets; peduncle and sometimes lower branches enclosed by sheathlike bracts; pedicel slender, pubescent, subtended by a subulate bract. Spikelets 1.4–3.5 cm; florets 3–7; rachilla internodes ca. 4 mm, ciliate. Glumes 2 or 3, 1st small, 7–9-veined, 2nd and 3rd resembling lemma; lemma ca. 1.2 cm, scabrous, white pubescent, upper margins ciliate; palea ca. 4 mm, keels sparsely ciliate, apex obtuse or emarginate; lodicules 3, several veined, margin ciliate, posterior one smaller. Stigmas 3. New shoots


凤竹 feng zhu


Culms ca. 5.5 m, 1–2.5 cm in diam.; internodes green-purple, to 23 cm, initially retrorsely white setulose; wall ca. 3 mm thick; nodes elevated, supra-nodal ridge more prominent than sheath scar; sheath scar with persistent base of sheath and deciduous ring of hairs. Culm sheaths deciduous, purple-green when fresh, pale brown when dry, papery, strigose, densely retrorsely puberulent at base, margins brown ciliate; auricles and oral setae absent; ligule pale brown, arcuate, abaxially hispidulous, white ciliate; blade deciduous with articulate base, erect, narrowly triangular to linear-lanceolate, both surfaces pubescent especially toward base, margins brown ciliate. Leaves 1–3 per ultimate branch; sheath pubescent especially on upper part; ligule 1–3 mm, puberulent; blade oblong-lanceolate, 6–15 × 0.6–1.6 cm, glabrous or abaxially pilose at base of mid-vein. Rachemes with 2 or 3(–5) spikelets; peduncle and sometimes lower branches enclosed by sheathlike bracts; pedicel slender, pubescent, subtended by a subulate bract. Spikelets 1.4–3.5 cm; florets 3–7; rachilla internodes ca. 4 mm, ciliolated. Glumes 2 or 3, 1st small, 7–9-veined, 2nd and 3rd resembling lemma; lemma ca. 1.2 cm, scabrous, white pubescent, upper margins ciliate; palea ca. 4 mm, keels sparsely ciliate, apex obtuse or emarginate; lodicules 3, several veined, margin ciliate, posterior one smaller. Stigmas 3. New shoots

late Apr, fl. early Apr.

- Hubei.


斗竹 dou zhu


Culms to 10 m, 4–6 cm in diam.; internodes green, becoming yellow-green, 20–40 cm, weakly grooved above branches, white powdery especially below nodes, glabrous, pith spongy; nodes elevated. Culm sheaths red-brown when fresh, gray-brown when dry, apex triangularly attenuated, shrunken with brown striate hairs or later with striae, base densely setose and hirtellous, margins brown setose; auricles absent; oral setae absent or rarely weakly developed; ligule arcuate, ca. 1 mm, ciliate; blade persistent, erect, narrowly triangular or triangular-lanceolate, faintly crinkled, base nearly as broad or slightly narrower than apex of culm sheath. Leaves 3–5 per ultimate branch; sheath glabrous; auricles and oral setae absent; ligule 2–2.5 mm; blade lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, 9–17 × 1–2 cm, glabrous. New shoots May.

- Broad-leaved forests, forest margins; below 800 m. Guangxi.


乾花少穗竹 cao hua shao sui zhu

Culms to 7 m, ca. 4 cm in diam.; internodes dark green, with purple markings, to 40 cm or more, initially white powdery below nodes, glabrous or pubescent; nodes weakly elevated, supra-nodal ridge as prominent as sheath scar or more prominent in slender culms. Culm sheaths yellow-green or green in smaller shoots, distally laterally straw-colored, with irregular, longitudinal, brown spots and streaks at lower nodes, these diminishing in mid-culm and absent in upper culm; auricles and oral setae absent; ligule purple, arcuate or convex, to ca. 5 mm, puberulent, ciliate; blade reflexed, usually purplish, lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, contracted at base. Leaves (1 or)2 or 3(–5) per ultimate branch; sheath glabrous; ligule obliquely arcuate or oblique, to ca. 2 mm, glabrous or puberulent, entire or ciliate; blade oblong-lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, to 15 × 1.9 cm, abaxially glaucous or gray-green and puberulent or glabrous, adaxially deep green and glabrous. Racemes 6–12(–16) cm, with (1 or)2 or 3(–6) spikelets; peduncle and lower branches enclosed by sheathlike bracts or slightly exserted; pedicels 5–8 mm, slender, glabrous, subtended by a minute, membranous bract. Spikelets linear or linear-lanceolate, to 8 cm; florets several to many; rachilla internodes 4–5 mm, compressed, apex puberulent. Glumes 3, 1st much smaller, 5–9-veined, 2nd and 3rd resembling lemmas but slightly smaller; lemma 1–2 cm, 11–15-veined, transverse veins abaxially distinct, scabrid, proximally pubescent, apex acuminate with a subulate or short awnlike point; palea abaxially scabrid, usually pubescent, inconspicuously 2–4-veined between keels and on each flank, apex obtuse or emarginate; keels distally distinct, glabrous or distally sparsely ciliate, extending into subapical mucros; lodicules 3, narrowly rhomboid-ovate or lanceolate, ca. 4 mm. Stamens 3; anthers ca. 7 mm. Style slender; stigmas 3. New shoots and fl. May.

- Forests on slopes of hills; below 1100 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, S Hunan, S Jiangxi.

5a. Oligostachyum scabriflorum var. scabriflorum

乾花少穗竹（原变种） cao hua shao sui zhu (yuan bian zhong)


Culm sheath ligule 2–5 mm, glabrous; leaf sheath ligule less than 1 mm.

- Forested slopes; below 1100 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, S Hunan, S Jiangxi.

5b. Oligostachyum scabriflorum var. breviligulatum

短舌少穗竹 duan she shao sui zhu


Culm sheath ligule 2–5 mm, glabrous; leaf sheath ligule 1–2 mm.

- Forested slopes; below 500 m. Guangdong.


短舌少穗竹 ping nan shao sui zhu


Both culm sheath and leaf sheath with ligule less than 1 mm; leaf sheath ligule minutely hairy at base.

- Forested slopes; ca. 500 m. Guangdong.
with a white powdery ring below nodes; supra-nodal ridge weakly elevated; sheath scar flat, initially pubescent. Culm sheaths light green, glabrous except at base; auricles absent or small; oral setae 2 or 3, short; ligule ca. 1 mm, initially ciliolate; blade usually reflexed, lanceolate or linear-lanceolate. Leaves 3 or 4 per ultimate branch; sheath glabrous, margins densely ciliate; auricles spreading, green, small; oral setae 2 or 3; ligule ca. 1 mm, puberulent; blade lanceolate, 9.11 × 1.1–1.5 cm, abaxially puberulent, adaxially glabrous. Racemes initially terminating leafy branches, peduncle and base of inflorescence enclosed by leaf sheaths; axis and pedicels glabrous or scabrid along angles. Spikelets linear, 4.7 × ca. 0.5 cm; florets 5–11, lower 2 or 3 sometimes sterile. Glumes 2 or 3, thinner than lemma, initially pubescent, 1st small, 5–7–veined, 2nd and 3rd larger, 9–11–veined; lemma 11–14 × ca. 3 mm, scabrid, initially pubescent, transverse veins distinct, apex acuminate or mucronate; lodicules membranous, thickened at base, 5–7–veined. Stamens 3; anthers yellow, ca. 5 mm. Style short; stigmas 3.


Roadsides; ca. 900 m. Fujian.


毛稃少穗竹 mao fu shao sui zhu


Culms to 5 m, ca. 1.5 cm in diam.; internodes initially with a white powdery ring below node, pubescent, becoming glabrous; nodes moderately elevated. Culm sheaths tardily deciduous, base retrorsely hirtellous, apex and both sides strigose or with striae and papillae left by fallen hairs; auricles and oral setae absent; ligule truncate, less than 1.5 mm, puberulent; blade lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, 15.37 × 1.5–3 cm; florets 3–7. Rachilla internodes 4–5 mm, flattened on side facing floret, sparsely ciliate along margins. Glumes usually 2, first small with inconspicuous veins, second 7–10 mm, 7–veined; lemma 1.1–1.3 cm, scabrous, 9–15–veined, adaxially transverse veins distinct, apex acuminate; palea 7–10 mm, keels ciliate, apex obtuse; lodicules 3, several veined, ciliate. Stamens 3 or 4. Style 1; stigmas 3, plumose. New shoots May, fl. Apr–May.

Forests; ca. 800 m. Fujian; cultivated in Zhejiang.

秀英竹 xiu ying zhu


Culms 4–6 m, 1–2 cm in diam.; internodes gray-green, usually with purple speckles, initially usually white powdery below nodes and sparsely setulose; nodes elevated, supra-nodal ridge more prominent than sheath scar. Culm sheaths yellow-green with purple-green base, brown strigose, margins ciliate; auricles small; oral setae 2 to several; ligule truncate, ca. 1 mm, white ciliate; blade erect, brown-green, ovate-lanceolate or lanceolate, base ca. 1/2 as wide as apex of culm sheath. Leaves 5–9 per flowering branch; sheath with purple speckles, glabrous; auricles not developed; oral setae 2 or 3; ligule purple, truncate, 0.5–1 mm, weakly exerted, hairy; blade 12–20 × 0.8–1.3 cm, both surfaces glabrous, abaxially transverse veins distinct, rectangular. Racemes or small panicles with 2–4 spikelets, partially exerted from leaf sheaths; axis and branches slender, glabrous or branches sparsely hirtellous along angles. Spikelets linear-lanceolate, 3–8 × ca. 0.5 cm; florets 5–15. Glumes 2, 1st smaller, 8–9 mm; lemma purple speckled, 1.7–2 cm, deciduously pubescent, apex with macro 2–3 mm; palea 1.2–1.4 cm, pubescent, keels sparsely ciliate, apex obtuse, thickly hairy; lodicules 3. Stamens 3. Style 1; stigmas 3.

Open forests in rocky valleys; ca. 1000 m. Hainan.


少穗竹 shao sui zhu


Culms to 12 m, ca. 6.2 cm in diam.; internodes initially purple-green, to 37.5 cm, initially white powdery, basally or completely grooved above branches; nodes weakly developed, supra-nodal ridge slightly more prominent than sheath scar. Culm sheaths yellow-green, glabrous, white powdery and densely brown strigose, especially densely so at base, margins ciliate in lower culm; auricles and oral setae absent; ligule ca. 3.5 cm, convex at middle, glabrous, ciliate; blade erect or spreading, purple-green, triangular-ovate to linear-lanceolate, proximally contracted. Leaves 2 or 3 per ultimate branch; sheath entirely glabrous; auricles and oral setae absent; ligule acuminate, 1–1.5 mm, ciliate; blade linear-lanceolate, 9–16 × 0.9–1.5 cm. Racemes consisting of 2 or 3–6 spikelets; peduncle slender, basally enclosed by sheathlike bracts, axis slender, glabrous; pedicels 1–1.5 cm, slender, glabrous. Spikelets lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, 15.37 × 1.5–3 mm; florets 3–7. Rachilla internodes 4–5 mm, flattened on side facing floret, sparsely ciliate along margins. Glumes usually 2, first small with inconspicuous veins, second 7–10 mm, 7–veined; lemma 1.1–1.3 cm, scabrous, 9–15–veined, adaxially transverse veins distinct, apex acuminate; palea 7–10 mm, keels ciliate, apex obtuse; lodicules 3, several veined, ciliate. Stamens 3 or 4. Style 1; stigmas 3, plumose. New shoots May, fl. Apr–May.

Forests; ca. 1000 m. Hainan.

秀英竹 xiu ying zhu


Culms 4–6 m, 1–2 cm in diam.; internodes gray-green, usually with purple speckles, initially usually white powdery below nodes and sparsely setulose; nodes elevated, supra-nodal ridge more prominent than sheath scar. Culm sheaths yellow-green with purple-green base, brown strigose, margins ciliate; auricles small; oral setae 2 to several; ligule truncate, ca. 1 mm, white ciliate; blade erect, brown-green, ovate-lanceolate or lanceolate, base ca. 1/2 as wide as apex of culm sheath. Leaves 5–9 per flowering branch; sheath with purple speckles, glabrous; auricles not developed; oral setae 2 or 3; ligule purple, truncate, 0.5–1 mm, weakly exerted, hairy; blade 12–20 × 0.8–1.3 cm, both surfaces glabrous, abaxially transverse veins distinct, rectangular. Racemes or small panicles with 2–4 spikelets, partially exerted from leaf sheaths; axis and branches slender, glabrous or branches sparsely hirtellous along angles. Spikelets lanceolate, 3–8 × ca. 0.5 cm; florets 5–15. Glumes 2, 1st smaller, 8–9 mm; lemma purple speckled, 1.7–2 cm, deciduously pubescent, apex with macro 2–3 mm; palea 1.2–1.4 cm, pubescent, keels sparsely ciliate, apex obtuse, thickly hairy; lodicules 3. Stamens 3. Style 1; stigmas 3.

Partially shaded slopes of hills; below 100 m. Hainan, Hong Kong.

10. Oligostachyum lubricum (T. H. Wen) P. C. Keng, J. Nan-


Culms ca. 5 m, ca. 2 cm in diam.; internodes green, ca. 30 cm, basally flattened above branches, without powder, glabrous. Culm sheaths green, sparsely white or yellow hairy or with imprints and brown papillae from fallen hairs, margins white ciliate; auricles purple or brown, ovate or rarely falcate; oral setae erect, flexuous; ligule purple, truncate, ca. 1.5 mm, margin purple ciliate; blade green, broadly lanceolate, margins ciliate, base contracted, apex acuminate. Leaves 3 or 4 per ultimate branch; sheath pubescent; auricles purple; oral setae usually developed; ligule purple, arcuate or truncate; blade linear-lanceolate, 10–15 × 1.5–2.5 cm, both surfaces glabrous or abaxially scabrous, secondary veins 6-paired, transverse veins distinct. Racemes with 1–4 spikelets; peduncle and branches partially exerted from sheathlike bracts with small blades; axes glabrous. Spikelets to 6 cm, compressed; florets 4–9, lowest one sterile with a lemma enclosing a very small palea. Glumes 1 or 2, 1st 5–8 mm, inconspicuously 5–9–veined, apex and midvein puberulent, 2nd longer, 7–11–veined; lemma purple-red, 1.6–1.8 mm, abaxially initially scabrid and pubescent, adaxially distally puberulent, 11–13–veined; palea keels long ciliate, apex obtuse or emarginate, 5-veined between keels, each flank 4-veined; lodicules 3, upper part membranous, margins ciliate. Stamens 3; anthers purple, ovate or rarely falcate; oral setae erect, flexuose; ligule truncate or arcuate, ca. 1.5 mm, hirtellous, ± along distal margins; auricles absent; oral setae absent or few, erect; ligule truncate or arcuate, to 1 mm, hirtellous, ± ciliate; blade oblong-lanceolate, ca. 20 × 2 cm, both surfaces glabrous, abaxially scabrid. Racemes with 3–5 spikelets; pedicels slender, setulose along angles, subtended by a small, subulate bract. Spikelets 4–6 cm; florets many; rachilla inter-nodes ca. 1/2 as long as lemma, abaxially densely antrorsely pubescent, apex ciliate. Glumes and sterile lemmas 3 or 4 more, distinctly smaller than fertile lemma, 1st small, others gradually larger; lemma to 1.4 cm, many veined, abaxially scabrid, margins distally ciliate, apex mucronate; palea much smaller than lemma in lower and middle florets or nearly equaling in upper florets, keels densely ciliate, abaxially pubescent, apex obtuse or acute, exceeding keels; lodicules ca. 4 mm. Stamens 3; anthers 5–6 mm. Styles 3. New shoots May–Oct, fl. May.

- Mountain slopes; 600–700 m. Hainan.


Culms ca. 2 m, ca. 1 cm in diam.; internodes sometimes becoming purplish in age, initially with a white powdery ring below node, apically retrorsely white pubescent; nodes elevated, supra-nodal ridge more prominent than sheath scar; internode ca. 5 mm. Culm sheaths tardily deciduous or nearly persistent, purple-green, strigose or with papillae from fallen hairs between veins, base thickened and densely setulose, margins ciliate; auricles and oral setae absent; ligule truncate or arcuate, usually ca. 2 mm, puberulent, ciliate; blade deciduous, erect to reflexed, usually linear-lanceolate to linear. Leaves 3–5 or rarely more per ultimate branch; sheath glabrous or ciliate along distal margins; auricles absent; oral setae absent or several, erect; ligule truncate or arcuate, to 1 mm, hirtellous, ± ciliate; blade oblong-lanceolate, ca. 20 × 2 cm, both surfaces glabrous, abaxially scabrid. Racemes with 3–5 spikelets; pedicels slender, setulose along angles, subtended by a small, subulate bract. Spikelets 4–6 cm; florets many; rachilla inter-nodes ca. 1/2 as long as lemma, abaxially densely antrorsely pubescent, apex ciliate. Glumes and sterile lemmas 3 or 4 more, distinctly smaller than fertile lemma, 1st small, others gradually larger; lemma to 1.4 cm, many veined, abaxially scabrid, margins distally ciliate, apex mucronate; palea much smaller than lemma in lower and middle florets or nearly equaling in upper florets, keels densely ciliate, abaxially pubescent, apex obtuse or acute, exceeding keels; lodicules ca. 4 mm. Stamens 3; anthers 5–6 mm. Styles 3. New shoots Apr–May, fl. May.

- Forested slopes; 500–1500 m. Guangdong.


Culms ca. 4 m, 2–3 cm in diam.; internodes ca. 25 cm; nodes elevated, supra-nodal ridge more prominent than sheath scar; internode ca. 5 mm. Culm sheaths green, sparsely strigose or with papillae left by fallen hairs, apex 2-lobed; auricles absent; oral setae absent or few, erect; ligule 0.5–1 mm; blade deciduous, narrowly linear. Leaves 3 per ultimate branch; sheath glabrous; auricles present; oral setae absent or few; ligule short, hirtellous; blade linear to linear-lanceolate, to ca. 18 × 0.5–1 cm, sometimes broader, both surfaces glabrous. Racemes with 4 or 5 spikelets; peduncle slender, glabrous; axis and pedicels slender, glabrous; pedicels 1–1.5 mm, sometimes subtended by a small, membranous bract. Spikelets initially purplish, linear-lanceolate, to 7 cm; florets many; rachilla internodes 4.5–6 mm, apex ciliate. Glumes 2–4, gradually larger, uppermost one similar to lemma but slightly smaller; lemma ca. 1.5 cm, 13–15–veined, transverse veins adaxially distinct, apex acuminate, mucronate; palea much smaller than lemma, keels distally ciliate, apex obtuse or acute, exceeding keels; lodicules 3, anterior pair obliquely lanceolate, 5–9–veined, apex ciliate. Stamens 3; anthers ca. 4 mm. Style shortly 3-fid. New shoots and fr. Apr–May.

- Forested slopes; 500–1500 m. Guangdong.
glabrous; pedicels 1–1.5 mm, sometimes subtended by a small, membranous bract. Spikelets initially purplish, linear-lanceolate, to 7 cm; florets many; rachilla internodes 4.5–6 mm, apex ciliate. Glumes 2–4, gradually larger, uppermost one similar to lemma but slightly smaller; lemma ca. 1.5 cm, 13–15-veined, transverse veins adaxially distinct, apex acuminate, mucronate; palea much smaller than lemma, keels distally ciliate, apex obtuse or acute, exceeding keels; lodicules 3, anterior pair obliquely lanceolate, 5–9-veined, apex ciliate. Stamens 3; anthers ca. 4 mm. Style shortly 3-fid. New shoots and fr. Apr–May.

● Forested slopes; 500–1500 m. Hainan.


圆锥少穗竹 yuan zhui shao sui zhu

Culms 2–3 m, 0.5–1 cm in diam.; internodes 15–25 cm, initially white powdery, glabrous; supra-nodal ridge more prominent than sheath scar. Culm sheaths tardily deciduous, glabrous; auricles absent; oral setae absent or few, erect; ligule weakly arcuate, less than 1 mm, margin ciliolate; blade deciduous, not seen. Leaves 2 per ultimate branch; sheath glabrous; auricles and oral setae absent; ligule subtruncate or arcuate, 1 × 1.5 cm, proximally densely puberulent, otherwise glabrous; blade linear or linear-lanceolate, ca. 15 × 1 cm, both surfaces glabrous, abaxially scabrid, apex acuminate, mucronate. Panicles with several to many spikelets, pedicels and lower branches enclosed by sheathlike bracts. Branches and pedicels slender, angles hirtellous. Spikelets to 11.5 cm; florets many; rachilla internodes ca. 1/2 as long as florets, external side and apex puberulent. Glumes 2 or 3, 1st smaller, 2nd and 3rd longer, resembling lemma; lemma ca. 1.3 cm, scabrid, 7–13-veined, apex acuminate, mucronate; palea much smaller than lemma, keels ciliate, apex exceeding keels; lodicules 3, 2–2.5 mm, ciliate, anterior 2 obliquely lanceolate, posterior narrowly lanceolate. Stamens 3; anthers ca. 4 mm. Style 1; stigmas 3. New shoots and fl. Apr–May.

● Guangxi.


多毛少穗竹 duo mao shao sui zhu


Culm internodes basally flattened above branches, prominently pitted (like pigskin) below nodes, pale yellow scabrid; node, supra-nodal ridge, and sheath scar elevated; intranode ca. 3 cm. Branches 3–5 per node, initially scabrid. Culm sheaths unknown. Leaves 2 per ultimate branch; sheath initially scabrid, margins densely ciliate; auricles hook-shaped or absent; oral setae radiating from auricle or erect if auricle absent; ligule subtruncate or arcuate, apex ciliate; blade lanceolate, 9–19 × 0.1–1.8 cm, abaxially puberulent. Racemes initially terminating leafy branches. Spikelets ca. 6 × 2–3 cm; florets 11–13. Glumes 2 or 3, 9–12 × 4–5 mm, 7–9-veined, apex acuminate and scabrid; lemma ca. 12 × 4 mm, adaxially puberulent, 15 or 16-veined, transverse veins distinct abaxially, margins apically ciliolate; palea smaller than lemma, ca. 10 × 2.5 mm, 3-veined between keels, flanks 2-veined with transverse veins, abaxially ciliolate; lodicules 3–5, ca. 2.5 × 1 mm, 3-veined, apex ciliate. Stamens 3; anthers ca. 4 mm. Ovary oblong, glabrous or sparsely pubescent; style 1; stigmas 2 or 3. Fl. Mar.

● Guangxi.

Taxa incertae sedis


无耳少穗竹 wu er shao sui zhu

Culms 3–4 m, (0.7–)1.2 cm in diam.; internodes initially dark green, white powdery, subcylindric, mostly 20–28 cm, shorter toward base, glabrous; nodes distinctly elevated; intranodes ca. 5 cm; branches mostly 3 per node, 5 or more at upper nodes. Culm sheaths deciduous, hardly spotted, thickly papery, abaxially sparsely reddish brown setulose; auricles and oral setae absent; blade erect, yellowish brown, triangular, 0.4–1.5 cm, base not narrowed. Leaves 2 or 3 per ultimate branch; sheath sparsely caducous ciliate; auricles and oral setae absent; ligule arcuate, 0.4–1.5 cm, base not narrowed. Style 1; stigmas 2 or 3. Fl. Mar.

● Montane forest margins; 1900–2000 m. Fujian (Jiangle).

The authors compared this species to Oligostachyum oedogonatum.

In addition, Oligostachyum yonganense Y. M. Lin & Q. F. Zheng (Fl. Fujian. 6: 689. 1995) was described from Fujian (Yongan). In the protologue it was compared with O. lanceolatum.