**159. OTTOCHLOA** Dandy, J. Bot. 69: 54. 1931.

露籽草属 lu zi cao shu

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Perennials. Culms tufted or rambling and stoloniferous. Leaf blades lanceolate; ligule membranous, truncate, ciliolate, or sometimes obscure. Inflorescence an open panicle, primary branches spaced along the central axis, spikelets borne on short secondary branches, singly or in appressed secondary racemelets. Spikelets dorsally compressed, 2-flowered; glumes similar, subequal, herba-ceous, 1/2–2/3 spikelet length, 3–5(–7)-veined; lower floret herbaceous, sterile or staminate, its lemma as long as the spikelet, 7–9-veined; upper lemma as long as the spikelet, coriaceous to cartilaginous, flattened on the back, smooth or rugulose, margins narrow, hyaline, incurved upward. \( x = 9 \).

Three species: Old World tropics; one species in China.

This genus resembles _Panicum_, but can be immediately distinguished by its short glumes.

1. **Ottochloa nodosa** (Kunth) Dandy, J. Bot. 69: 55. 1931.

露籽草 lu zi cao

Perennial. Culms slender, decumbent, rooting and branching at the nodes, ascending up to 60 cm. Leaf sheaths conspicuously ciliate along one margin; leaf blades narrowly lanceolate, 4–11 × 0.5–1 cm, smooth, glabrous, base rounded or cordate, margins scabrous, apex acuminate; ligule ca. 0.3 mm. Panicle 10–15 cm, branches 3–8 cm, stiffly spreading, subverticillate in the lower part, the spikelets grouped in clusters or short racemelets, or sometimes loosely spaced. Spikelets ellip-tic to elliptic-oblong, 2–3.2 mm, acute; glumes lanceolate, lower glume 1/2 spikelet length, 3–5-veined; upper glume 1/2–2/3 spikelet length, 5–7-veined; lower lemma 7-veined; upper lemma smooth, apex laterally compressed to a very small crest. Fl. and fr. Jul–Sep. \( 2n = 18 \). Fl. and fr. Jul–Sep. \( 2n = 18 \).

Forests (not in deep shade), forest margins, clearings; 100–1700 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Taiwan, Yunnan [India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand; Africa, NE Australia, Pacific Islands (Polynesia)].

The name _Ottochloa malabarica_ (Linnaeus) Dandy (based on _Poa malabarica_ Linnaeus) has been applied to this grass. The identity of _P. malabarica_ is unclear from the protologue, which probably includes more than one species, but the name has more frequently been applied to the completely different species _Leptochloa fusca_. _Poa malabarica_, a name of uncertain application, has been formally rejected.

1a. Spikelets 2.8–3.2 mm ......................... 1a. var. _nodosa_

1b. Spikelets 2–2.5 mm ......................... 1b. var. _micrantha_

1a. **Ottochloa nodosa** var. _nodosa_

露籽草(原变种) lu zi cao (yuan bian zhong)


Spikelets 2.8–3.2 mm; upper glume 1/2–2/3 spikelet length; lower lemma 7-veined.

Forests, forest margins, clearings; 100–1700 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Taiwan, Yunnan [India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand; Africa, NE Australia, Pacific Islands (Polynesia)].

Spikelets 2–2.5 mm; upper glume ovate, ca. 1/2 spikelet length, 7-veined; lower lemma 5–7-veined. Fl. and fr. Jul–Nov.

Valleys, moist forest margins. Guangdong, Hainan [Vietnam].

The name "Panicum nodosum var. micranthum Balansa" (J. Bot. (Morot) 4: 142. 1890) is a nomen nudum and was therefore not validly published. The combination Ottochloa nodosa var. micrantha was not previously validly published by P. C. Keng (Iconogr. Cormophyt. Sin. 5: 160. 1976) because no reference to the basionym was provided.