

225. POLYTOCA R. Brown in J. J. Bennett & R. Brown, Pl. Jav. Rar. 20. 1838.

多裔草属 duo yi cao shu

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Perennial. Leaf blades broadly linear; ligule membranous. Inflorescences terminal and axillary, racemes subdigitate or axillary racemes sometimes solitary, spathate; racemes bearing pairs of unisexual awnless spikelets, female and male spikelets separated into different zones, axis fragile, especially in female zone; lateral racemes of digitate cluster entirely staminate, terminal raceme and solitary axillary racemes mixed, usually sterile spikelet pairs at base, then a zone with female sessile and sterile pedicelled spikelets, distally both spikelets of a pair staminate, uppermost spikelet pairs sterile. Rachis internode and pedicel fused along one margin, flat, ciliate; callus truncate with central knob. Female zone: spikelet pair dissimilar; sessile spikelet dorsally compressed; lower glume leathery, enveloping whole spikelet, glume body oblong, flanks rounded, abruptly contracted into keeled winged apical beak; lower floret sterile, reduced to a lemma; upper floret pistillate, palea present, stigma single, elongate; pedicelled spikelet much longer than sessile, sterile, comprising only a herbaceous, many-veined lower glume. Male zone: spikelet pair similar, both staminate; lower glume lanceolate, papery, winged above middle; both florets male with paleas.

One species: NE India to Indonesia, New Guinea, and the Philippines, including S China.

1. *Polytoca digitata* (Linnaeus f.) Druce, Rep. Bot. Exch. Club. 4: 641. 1917.

多裔草 duo yi cao

Apluda digitata Linnaeus f., Suppl. Pl. 434. 1782 ["1781"]; *Coix heteroclita* Roxburgh; *Polytoca bracteata* R. Brown; *P. heteroclita* (Roxburgh) Koorders.

Perennial from short stout rhizome. Culms erect, up to 3 m tall, 4–8 mm in diam., branched, 6–10-noded, nodes densely bearded with upwardly pointing hairs. Leaf sheaths glabrous or setose with tubercle-based hairs; leaf blades cauline, up to 80 × 1–4 cm, abaxial surface glaucous, glabrous or setulose, margins serrate, apex acuminate; ligule 2–5 mm. Racemes 2–4, 4–12 cm. Female zone: sessile spikelet 8–11 mm; lower glume shortly hairy on back, longer hair tufts laterally at base of beak, beak ca. 3 mm, wings ca. 1 mm wide; lodicules absent; pedicelled spikelet 15–20 mm, asymmetrical, broadly winged on one side. Male zone: spikelets oblong-lanceolate, 8–10 mm; lower glume symmetrically winged on margins above middle, wing 0.5–1 mm wide. Fl. and fr. Jul–Sep.

Hill slopes, grasslands, roadsides. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Yunnan [Cambodia, NE India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam].

The zonation of the mixed-sex racemes is obvious, with the tough, yellowish female spikelets, which often have the long stigmas exerted, located below the more slender, green male portion.

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