

**219. ROTTBOELLIA** Linnaeus f., Suppl. Pl. 114. 1782 [“1781”], nom. cons.,  
not *Rottboelia* Scopoli (1777), nom. rej.

筒轴茅属 tong zhou mao shu

Sun Bixing (孙必兴 Sun Bi-sin); Sylvia M. Phillips

Annual. Culms robust. Leaf blades linear, flat; ligule membranous. Inflorescence of single axillary racemes; racemes cylindrical, fragile, transversely articulated; rachis internodes stout, flattened or semi-cylindrical, deeply cupped at apex, truncate at base with a prominent central peg broadened into a flared elaiosome. Sessile spikelet sunk within rachis; lower glume ovate-oblong, leathery, shallowly convex, marginally 2-keeled, apex obtuse or acute, narrowly winged; upper glume boat-shaped; lower floret staminate, palea present; upper floret with entire awnless lemma. Pedicelled spikelet tightly erect, as long as or shorter than sessile spikelet, herbaceous; pedicel broad, of similar texture to, and partly or wholly adnate to adjacent rachis internode.

Five species: Old World tropics; introduced in the Caribbean region; two species (one endemic) in China.

- 1a. Sessile spikelet ovate, 5–6 mm, pallid; lower glume of sessile spikelet scaberulous on back; leaf sheaths hispid ..... 1. *R. cochinchinensis*  
1b. Sessile spikelet oblong-lanceolate, 7–10 mm, dull green; lower glume of sessile spikelet smooth on back; leaf sheaths ± glabrous ..... 2. *R. laevispica*

**1. *Rottboellia cochinchinensis*** (Loureiro) Clayton, Kew Bull. 35: 817. 1981.

筒轴茅 tong zhou mao

*Stegosia cochinchinensis* Loureiro, Fl. Cochinch. 51. 1790; *Rottboellia exaltata* Linnaeus f. (1781), not (Linnaeus) Linnaeus f. (1779).

Coarse annual. Culms stout, 1–3 m tall, 5–10 mm in diam., supported below by stilt roots, branched in upper part. Leaf sheaths tuberculate-hispid with stiff irritant hairs or sometimes glabrescent; leaf blades linear-lanceolate, 20–50 × 0.5–2.5 cm, glabrous or adaxial surface hispidulous, very scabrid along margins, midrib broad, white, apex acuminate; ligule a ciliate membrane, ca. 1 mm. Racemes yellow and green, 6–15 × 0.25–0.4 cm, stiff, terminating in a green tail of reduced spikelets; rachis internodes 4–6 mm, rounded on back, slightly longer than adjacent pedicel. Sessile spikelet pale yellow, 5–6 mm; lower glume ovate, minutely scaberulous on back, keeled only toward entire or very minutely 2–3-toothed apex; lower lemma as long as upper lemma. Pedicelled spikelet green, variable, 3–5 mm, narrowly ovate, herbaceous. Fl. and fr. Jul–Oct.

Sunny or moderately shady localities, roadsides, hill thickets, dry cultivated fields, grasslands; below 1900 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guang-

xi, Guizhou, Hainan, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [throughout the Old World tropics; introduced to the Caribbean].

**2. *Rottboellia laevispica*** Keng, J. Wash. Acad. Sci. 21: 157. 1931.

光穗筒轴茅 guang sui tong zhou mao

*Mnesithea laevispica* (Keng) de Koning & Sosef.

Annual. Culms slender, up to 1 m tall, 3–5 mm in diam., usually geniculate at base and rooting at lower nodes. Leaf sheaths smooth or papillate; leaf blades linear-lanceolate, flaccid, 15–40 × 0.8–1.6 cm, glabrous, midrib white, margins scabrid, apex acuminate; ligule a ciliate membrane, 0.5–1 mm. Racemes dull greenish brown, up to 20 × 0.3–0.5 cm, terminating in a tail of reduced spikelets; rachis internodes 9–10 mm, rounded on back, equaling or slightly longer than sessile spikelet and adjacent pedicel. Sessile spikelet dull green, 7–10 mm; lower glume oblong-lanceolate, smooth on back, keels scaberulous above middle and narrowly winged at apex; lower lemma as long as upper lemma. Pedicelled spikelet usually reduced to two 1–3.5 mm glumes. Fl. and fr. Jul–Oct.

- Shaded forests on mountain slopes. Anhui, Jiangsu.

Flora of China 22: 644–645. 2006.