
裂稃茅属 lie fu mao shu

Perennial. Culms slender, erect. Leaf sheaths with margins fused in lower part; leaf blades linear. Panicle little branched, often racemelike, spikelets few. Spikelets elliptic, florets several, upper 1 or 2 sterile; rachilla scabrid, disarticulating below each floret; glumes broadly lanceolate, shorter than first floret, unequal with lower glume shorter, membranous, lower glume 1–3-veined, upper glume 5-veined, apex subacute; floret callus oblong, bearded, obtuse; lemma lanceolate, thickly herbaceous, back rounded, 7-veined, apex shallowly 2-toothed, awned from just below teeth; awn straight or slightly recurved, usually longer than lemma body; palea 2/3–3/4 lemma length, keels ciliate above middle. Stamens 3. Caryopsis oblong, free from lemma and palea. Chromosomes small. \[x = 10.\]

One species: E Europe to E Asia, North America.


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Avena callosa Turczaninow ex Grisebach in Ledebour, Fl. Ross. 4: 416. 1852; Melica callosa (Turczaninow ex Grisebach) Ohwi; Schizachne callosa (Turczaninow ex Grisebach) Ohwi; S. fauriei Hackel.

Perennial, shortly rhizomatous. Culms loosely tufted, 20–50 cm tall, 0.7–1.5 mm in diam., scabrid below panicle. Leaf sheaths longer than internodes, lower sheaths scaberulous; leaf blades narrowly linear, flat or margins inrolled, 5–20 mm × 1–1.5 mm, abaxial surface glabrous, adaxial surface scaberulous and sparsely pilose; ligule 1–2 mm. Panicle lanceolate in outline, 6–8 cm, laxly bearing 4–6(–10) spikelets; branches slender, scabrid, up to 1.5 cm, unbranched and tipped by a single spikelet. Spikelets 10–14 mm, florets 3–4(–5), pale green tinged brownish purple; lower glume 4–5 mm, upper glume 5–7 mm; callus hairs 1–1.5 mm; lemmas 7–9 mm, veins scaberulous, margins broad, scarious, apical teeth acute, ca. 1.5 mm; awns 1–1.5 cm, straight or almost so. Anthers 1.5–2 mm. Fl. and fr. Jun–Jul. \[2n = 20.\]

Forest undergrowth, moist grassy places; 800–2000(–3500) m. Hebei, Heilongjiang, Henan, Liaoning, Shanxi, Yunnan (Hengduan Shan) [E Kazakhstan, Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Russia; Europe (Ural Mountains)].

This is a forage grass of forest pastures. It has been reported to occur at 2800–3500 m in Yunnan, based on “Schizachne hengduanensis L. Liou,” which name was not validly published.

Schizachne purpurascens subsp. purpurascens occurs in North America and NE Russia (Kamchatka). It has broader leaf blades 2–5 mm wide, larger panicles with up to 20 spikelets, the lower branches longer and subdivided, and spikelets with more definitely recurved awns.