

46. **SINOCHASEA** Keng, J. Wash. Acad. Sci. 48: 115. 1958.

三蕊草属 san rui cao shu

Perennial, tufted. Leaf blades narrow, rolled. Inflorescence a contracted panicle. Spikelets with 1 floret, lightly laterally compressed; rachilla extension present, minute, glabrous or rarely with a few hairs; glumes subequal or lower glume slightly longer, as long as spikelet, herbaceous to scarious with hyaline margins, prominently 5–9-veined, apex acuminate; callus obtuse, shortly bearded; lemma narrowly oblong, shorter than glumes, papery, back rounded, 5–9-veined, hairy, apex deeply 2-lobed, awned from sinus; awn geniculate, column twisted; palea slightly shorter than lemma, 2-veined, not keeled. Lodicules 2(or 3), lanceolate. Stamens 3, anthers glabrous at apex. Ovary glabrous, stigmas 3, subsessile.

- One species: W China.

The presence of a rachilla extension is anomalous in *Stipeae*, which normally have strictly 1-flowered spikelets, and on this account the genus is sometimes placed in *Aveneae*. However, the multi-veined glumes, rounded palea lacking keels, and linear hilum are all Stipoid characters.

1. ***Sinochasea trigyna*** Keng, J. Wash. Acad. Sci. 48: 115. 1958.

三蕊草 san rui cao

Perennial forming small dense tussocks from a short rootstock; basal sheaths persistent. Culms stiffly erect, 7–45 cm tall, 1–2 mm in diam., scabrid under panicle, otherwise smooth, 2–3-noded. Leaf sheaths scaberulous; leaf blades stiff, setaceous, 3–16 cm, 1–2 mm wide, both surfaces and margins scabrid, apex acute; ligule membranous, 0.5–2 mm, truncate or obtuse, ciliolate. Panicle narrowly lanceolate in outline, 3–8.5 cm; branches erect, up to 3 cm; pedicels hispid. Spikelets 8–12 mm, greenish with purple apices; rachilla extension minute; glumes lanceolate, as long as spikelet, 5-veined, almost smooth or scaberulous; lemma (6–)8–9 mm, 5-veined, villous, lobes 3–6 mm; awn 0.9–1.1 cm; palea a little shorter than lemma,

pubescent between veins, apex 2-toothed. Lodicules 1.5–2 mm. Anthers ca. 1 mm. Ovary glabrous. Fl. and fr. Aug–Sep.

- Alpine meadows, mountain slopes; 3800–5100 m. Qinghai, Xizang.

A third small lodicule may be present in this species. *Sinochasea* is sometimes included within the otherwise unispecific genus *Pseudodanthonia* Bor & C. E. Hubbard, because *P. himalaica* (J. D. Hooker) Bor & C. E. Hubbard shares the unusual character of an ovary bearing 3 stigmas. *Sinochasea* is recognized here as distinct, because *Pseudodanthonia* differs by its 2-keeled, winged palea (not seen elsewhere in *Stipeae*) and hairy ovary.

Pseudodanthonia himalaica is known at present only from the NW Himalayas in India. It is a tussocky species about 50 cm tall with a long, acute ligule to 7 mm, larger spikelets with several florets, a geniculate awn to 2 cm, and shorter, obovate lodicules.

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