

173. **STENOTAPHRUM** Trinius, Fund. Agrost. 175. 1822 [“1820”].

钝叶草属 *dun ye cao shu*

Chen Shouliang (陈守良); Sylvia M. Phillips

*Diastemenanthe* Steudel; *Ophiurinella* Desvaux.

Annuals or perennials, stoloniferous. Leaf blades linear to narrowly lanceolate; ligule ciliate. Inflorescence of very short racemes bearing a few sessile spikelets; racemes arranged singly and sunk in pockets on one or both sides of a foliaceous or corky axis, variously disarticulating at maturity, raceme rachis ending in a point. Spikelets ovate-lanceolate to lanceolate; glumes both short or the upper equal to spikelet, membranous; lower floret staminate or neuter, lemma as long as the spikelet, usually coriaceous, rarely papery, smooth, acute; upper lemma slightly shorter than lower lemma, papery, rarely coriaceous, margins flat.  $x = 9$ .

Seven species: tropics and subtropics, mostly on seashores or near the coast from the Indian Ocean to SE Asia and the Pacific Ocean, one species pantropical; three species (one introduced) in China.

- 1a. Inflorescence with broad foliaceous axis, spikelets not sunk in axis cavities; lower lemma herbaceous, upper lemma coriaceous ..... 1. *S. helferi*  
1b. Inflorescence with thick, non-foliaceous axis, spikelets sunk in axis cavities; lower lemma cartilaginous, upper lemma papery.  
2a. Spikelets on opposite sides of a cylindrical axis, 2.5–3.5 mm, in short racemes; leaf blades sharply acuminate ..... 2. *S. micranthum*  
2b. Spikelets on one face of a flattened axis, 4–5 mm, solitary; leaf blades obtuse ..... 3. *S. secundatum*

**1. *Stenotaphrum helferi*** Munro ex J. D. Hooker, Fl. Brit. India 7: 91. 1896 [“1897”].

钝叶草 *dun ye cao*

Perennial. Culms stoloniferous, flowering shoots 10–40 cm tall. Leaf sheaths loose, laterally compressed, keeled, glabrous; leaf blades broadly linear, 5–17 × 0.5–1.1 cm, glabrous, base truncate, apex abruptly acute; ligule ca. 0.3 mm. Inflorescence 10–15 cm; axis with foliaceous wing, 3–5 mm wide, midrib sharply triquetrous with scabrous margins; racemes 7–18 mm, appressed within the curves of the midrib, bearing 3–7 spikelets, lowest racemes free; raceme rachis triquetrous, margins spinulose. Spikelets ovate-lanceolate, dorsally flattened, 4–4.5 mm, strongly veined, acuminate; glumes herbaceous, acute; lower glume broadly ovate, 1/2–2/3 as long as spikelet, (3–)5–7-veined; upper glume as long as spikelet, 9–11-veined; lower floret staminate or neuter, lemma firmly herbaceous, 7-veined, palea well developed; upper lemma coriaceous, smooth, cuspidate-mucronate, tardily deciduous. Fl. and fr. autumn.

Moist lawns, forest edges, open forests; below 1100 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Hainan, Yunnan [Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam].

**2. *Stenotaphrum micranthum*** (Desvaux) C. E. Hubbard in C. E. Hubbard & R. E. Vaughan, Grasses Mauritius Rodriguez, 73. 1940.

锥穗钝叶草 *zhui sui dun ye cao*

*Ophiurinella micrantha* Desvaux, Mém. Soc. Agric. Angers 1: 179. 1831; *Stenotaphrum diplocephalum* Pilger; *S. lepturoides* Henslow; *S. subulatum* Trinius.

Annual. Culms decumbent at base, up to 35 cm tall. Leaf sheaths rounded, ciliate along one margin; leaf blades lanceolate, 4–8 × 0.5–1 cm, glabrous or pubescent, apex sharply acuminate; ligule ca. 1 mm. Inflorescence 6–14 cm, slender, cylindrical; axis 1.5–2.5 mm wide; racemes 5–10 mm, sunk in depressions on opposite sides of the axis, bearing (1–)3–6 spikelets; raceme rachis stoutly triquetrous, ciliolate along mar-

gins. Spikelets oblong-lanceolate, 2.5–3.5 mm, obtuse to subacute, falling entire; glumes membranous, 1/5–1/4 as long as spikelet or upper glume slightly longer, truncate; lower floret neuter, lemma cartilaginous, flat, enclosing fertile floret in inflorescence axis, 3-veined, grooved on either side of midvein, margins inflexed at lateral veins, lower palea absent; upper lemma papery, subequal to spikelet, smooth, acute. Fl. and fr. spring.

Coral islands on coastal sands, understory of littoral woodlands. South China Sea Islands (Xisha Qundao) [small islands around New Guinea; Australia (Great Barrier Reef Islands), Coral Sea Islands, Indian Ocean Islands, Pacific Islands (Polynesia); probably introduced to E Africa (Tanzania)].

**3. *Stenotaphrum secundatum*** (Walter) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 794. 1891.

侧钝叶草 *ce dun ye cao*

*Ischaemum secundatum* Walter, Fl. Carol. 249. 1788.

Perennial, stoloniferous and forming a dense sward. Culms much branched, flowering shoots 10–30 cm tall. Leaf sheaths strongly keeled, often grouped in flabellate clusters; leaf blades broadly linear, folded when young, up to 15 × 0.4–1 cm, apex obtuse; ligule ca. 0.5 mm. Inflorescence 5–12 cm, slender, cylindrical; axis corky, disarticulating into segments at maturity; racemes 4–10 mm, reduced to 1–3 spikelets embedded in one face of the rachis, alternating on either side of the sinuous midrib; raceme rachis a stout pointed appendage within the axis cavity. Spikelets lanceolate, 4–5 mm, acute; lower glume up to 1/4 as long as spikelet; upper glume as long as spikelet; lower

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floret staminate, lemma cartilaginous, 3-veined, palea well developed; upper lemma papery, subequal to spikelet, smooth, acute. Fl. and fr. summer.

Cultivated as lawn grass. Hong Kong [tropical and subtropical shores on both sides of Atlantic Ocean, extending around S Africa to Mozambique].

This grass is widely cultivated in the moist tropics as a lawn grass (St. Augustine Grass).

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