

## 2. THYRSOSTACHYS Gamble, Indian Forester 20: 1. 1894.

泰竹属 tai zhu shu

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Arborescent bamboos, moderately sized; clumps very dense. Rhizomes short necked, pachymorph. Culms unicaespitose, erect; internodes terete. Branches several to many, 1 dominant. Culm sheaths persistent, thickly papery; ligule short; auricles absent or small without bristles; blade recurved or erect, triangular. Leaf sheath blade small to moderate-sized; ligule short; auricles absent. Inflorescence iterant, fully bracteate, comprising a cluster of 1–3 fertile pseudospikelets and 1 or 2 sterile ones subtended by a spathiform 2-keeled prophyll, sessile upon a branch node. Pseudospikelets with prophyll, 1–3 florets plus a fertile terminal one and a rachilla extension, falling together, not disarticulating; rachilla hairy. Glumes 2–4; lemma papery; palea 2-cleft for ca. 1/3 of its length; lodicules absent to 3, ciliate. Stamens 6, long exserted; anthers apiculate. Ovary turbinate, stalked; style long; stigmas 1–3, feathery. Caryopsis terete, smooth, glabrous, with persistent style base.  $2n = 76^*$ .

Two species: China, Myanmar, Thailand; two species in China.

- 1a. Culm sheath apically straight-truncate; leaf blade  $17\text{--}20 \times 1.2\text{--}2$  cm; spikelets 1.5–2.5 cm; culms densely caespitose ..... 1. *T. oliveri*  
1b. Culm sheath apically triangular-truncate; leaf blade  $7\text{--}15 \times 0.7\text{--}1.2$  cm; spikelets 1.2–1.4 cm; culms very densely caespitose ..... 2. *T. siamensis*

### 1. *Thyrsostachys oliveri* Gamble, Indian Forester 20: 1. 1894.

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Culms to 20 m, to 7.5 cm in diam.; internodes initially bright green, becoming dull green, 30–50 cm; wall rather thick; nodes slightly prominent. Branches several, main mid-culm ones to 1.5 cm in diam. Culm sheaths orange to brown, ca. 3/4 as long as internodes, papery, margins ciliate, apex rounded; auricles and oral setae absent; ligule ca. 2.5 mm, serrulate; blade reflexed, narrow, to 20 cm, base ca. 1/3 width of sheath apex. Leaf sheaths hairy; ligule short, pubescent; blade linear-lanceolate,  $17\text{--}20 \times 1.2\text{--}2$  cm. Pseudospikelets 1.5–2.5 cm; prophylls to 1 cm; gemmiferous bracts 2 or 3; empty glumes 1 or 2; fertile florets 2 or 3; fertile lemma 1.2–1.6 cm; palea 1.4–1.8 cm, narrow, bifid for 1/4–1/3 of its length; lodicules 2 or 3. Anthers yellow, apiculate. Ovary turbinate; style 1, ca. 1.5 cm; stigmas 3. Caryopsis ca. 1 cm.

Forests on low hills, open areas; 500–700 m. S Yunnan [Myanmar].

### 2. *Thyrsostachys siamensis* Gamble, Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calcutta 7: 59. 1896, nom. cons.

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*Bambusa regia* Thomson ex Munro, nom. rej.; *Thyrsostachys regia* (Thomson ex Munro) Bennet, nom. rej.

Culms to 12 m, to 6 cm in diam.; internodes initially green, becoming gray-green, 20–30 cm; wall thick; nodes slightly thickened, with a white ring below. Branches several, main mid-culm ones to 1 cm in diam. Culm sheaths pale brown, 3/4–1 × as long as internodes, papery, appressed pubescent, margins ciliate, apex truncate; ciliate; auricles small; ligule ca. 1 mm; blade erect, base ca. 3/4 width of sheath apex. Leaf sheaths white pubescent and ciliate; ligule very short, pubes-

cent; blade linear,  $7.5\text{--}15 \times 0.7\text{--}1.2$  cm. Pseudospikelets 1.2–1.4 cm; prophylls to 0.8 cm; gemmiferous bracts 2 or 3; glumes 2 or 3; fertile florets 1–3. Fertile lemma 1–1.3 cm; palea slightly longer than lemma, narrow, bifid for 1/3 of its length; lodicules absent to 3. Anthers pale yellow, apex purple, apiculate. Ovary ovoid to turbinate; style 1, ca. 1.2 cm; stigmas 1–3. Caryopsis ca. 0.6 cm.  $2n = 76^*$ .

River valleys to hilly forested areas; 500–1000 m. S Yunnan [Myanmar, N Thailand].

This species is one of the most beautiful ornamental bamboos in the tropics of SE Asia, long cultivated in SE China, and recently found wild in Yunnan. The widespread use and economic importance of the name *Thyrsostachys siamensis* justified its conservation against the earlier name, *Bambusa regia* (1868).

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