

166. **UROCHLOA** P. Beauvois, Ess. Agrostogr. 52. 1812.

尾稈草屬 wei fu cao shu

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Annuals or perennials, often coarse and weedy. Leaf blades linear to broadly lanceolate; ligule a ciliate membrane. Inflorescence composed of racemes along a central axis; spikelets single or paired on a flattened or triquetrous rachis. Spikelets lanceolate or elliptic, plano-convex, cuspidate to acuminate, florets 2; lower glume abaxial, variable in length; upper glume and lower lemma similar, as long as spikelet, membranous to firmly papery; upper lemma coriaceous, rugulose or granular, margins inrolled, shorter than spikelet with a slender mucro lying within the cuspidate spikelet tip. $x = 7, 10, 16$.

Twelve species: tropics of the Old World; four species in China.

Urochloa is closely related to *Brachiaria*, and the two are united by some authors. They are distinguished mainly by habit, *Urochloa* having rather more flattened, cuspidate spikelets enclosing a pronounced mucro from the upper lemma. The different spikelet orientation is also characteristic, though not obvious when the spikelets are paired. In *Urochloa* the lower glume faces outward, whereas in *Brachiaria* it lies against the rachis.

- 1a. Lower glume 2/3–3/4 spikelet length 1. *U. paspaloides*
- 1b. Lower glume less than 1/3 spikelet length.
 - 2a. Spikelets 2–2.5 mm 2. *U. reptans*
 - 2b. Spikelets 3.5–5 mm.
 - 3a. Perennial from a knotty rootstock; spikelets paired; fertile floret with a tiny mucro ca. 0.1 mm 3. *U. setigera*
 - 3b. Annual, spikelets usually single or paired only at base; fertile floret with a pronounced mucro 0.3–1 mm 4. *U. panicoides*

1. *Urochloa paspaloides* J. Presl, Reliq. Haenk. 1: 318. 1830.

雀稗尾稈草 que bai wei fu cao

Brachiaria ambigua (Trinius) A. Camus; *B. paspaloides* (J. Presl) C. E. Hubbard; *Panicum ambiguum* Trinius; *Urochloa ambigua* (Trinius) Pilger.

Annual. Culms slender, spreading, branching and rooting at lower nodes, 20–60 cm or more tall, nodes pubescent. Leaf sheaths glabrous or loosely pilose; leaf blades linear, 5–20 × 0.3–0.8 cm, thinly pilose on both surfaces with tubercle-based hairs, apex acuminate; ligule ca. 1 mm. Inflorescence axis 1.5–4 cm; racemes 2–4, 2–5 cm, rather stiffly ascending; rachis narrow, triquetrous, scabrous; spikelets usually paired, loosely overlapping. Spikelets lanceolate, 3.5–4 mm, glabrous, sharply acute; lower glume lanceolate, 2/3–3/4 spikelet length, 5–7-veined, acute and apiculate; upper glume 5–7-veined, sharply acute; lower lemma obscurely 5-veined, palea very small; upper lemma elliptic-oblong, only slightly shorter than spikelet, finely rugulose, mucro 0.4–0.5 mm. Fl. and fr. May–Oct. $2n = 36$.

Mountain slopes, forests. Hainan, Yunnan [India, Japan (Ryukyu Islands), Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka].

This is the only species of *Urochloa* in China with a long lower glume.

2. *Urochloa reptans* (Linnaeus) Stapf in Prain, Fl. Trop. Africa 9: 601. 1920.

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Annual. Culms slender, creeping, rooting at lower nodes, ascending to 10–50 cm tall. Leaf sheaths glabrous, one margin densely ciliate; leaf blades lanceolate, 2–6 × 0.3–1.2 cm, glabrous or loosely hispidulous, base subcordate, margins scabrous, pectinate-ciliate at base; ligule ca. 1 mm, ciliate. Inflorescence pyramidal, axis 1–8 cm; racemes 3–6(–12), 0.5–4 cm, spreading; rachis triquetrous, scabrous; spikelets paired,

crowded, pedicels setose. Spikelets ovate or ovate-elliptic, 2–2.5 mm, usually glabrous, acute; lower glume cufflike, 1/8–1/4 spikelet length, thinly membranous, veinless or obscurely 3-veined, truncate or rounded; upper glume (5–)7–9-veined; lower lemma 5-veined, palea well developed; upper lemma broadly elliptic, 1.8–2 mm, finely rugose, apiculate. Fl. and fr. summer–autumn. $2n = 14, 18$.

Grassy places, fields. Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hunan, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan [tropics throughout the world].

This weedy species is widely distributed in the Old World and introduced in America. It is a borderline species in the genus: the small, plump spikelets are reminiscent of *Brachiaria*, where it is placed by some authors.

- 1a. Rachis and pedicels with long tubercle-based setae 2a. var. *reptans*
- 1b. Rachis and pedicels glabrous 2b. var. *glabra*

2a. *Urochloa reptans* var. *reptans*

尾稈草(原变种) wei fu cao (yuan bian zhong)

Panicum reptans Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 2: 870. 1759; *Brachiaria prostrata* (Lamarck) Grisebach; *B. reptans* (Linnaeus) C. A. Gardner & C. E. Hubbard; *Panicum prostratum* Lamarck.

Rachis of raceme and pedicels with long tubercle-based setae.

Grassy places, fields. Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hunan, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan [tropics throughout the world].

2b. *Urochloa reptans* var. *glabra* S. L. Chen & Y. X. Jin, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 22: 475. 1984.

光尾稈草 guang wei fu cao

Rachis of raceme and pedicels glabrous.

• Grassy and waste places. Yunnan.

3. *Urochloa setigera* (Retzius) Stapf in Prain, Fl. Trop. Africa 9: 598. 1920.

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Panicum setigerum Retzius, Observ. Bot. 4: 15. 1786; *Brachiaria setigera* (Retzius) C. E. Hubbard; *Urochloa cordata* Keng ex S. L. Chen & Y. X. Jin.

Perennial from a knotty base. Culms rigid, decumbent, ascending to 1 m, nodes densely bearded. Leaf sheaths puberulous and with tubercle-based hairs, one margin ciliate; leaf blades lanceolate, 8–15 × 1.8–2.5 cm, pubescent, base cordate-amplexicaul, margins scabrous, pectinate-ciliate usually at least

to the middle, apex acuminate; ligule ca. 2 mm, ciliate. Inflorescence axis 6–13 cm; racemes 6–12, 2–5 cm, ascending; spikelets usually paired, setose especially on pedicels. Spikelet ovate-lanceolate, 4–5 mm, densely pubescent, acuminate-cuspidate; lower glume ovate, ca. 1/5 spikelet length, triangular, subacute; upper glume (5–)7–9-veined; lower lemma slightly shorter than upper glume, staminate or sterile, 5–7-veined, palea well developed, keels very narrowly winged upward; upper lemma broadly elliptic, coriaceous, rugulose, mucro ca. 0.1 mm. Fl. and fr. Jul–Sep.

Forests. Guangdong, Hainan [India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand].

4. *Urochloa panicoides* P. Beauvois, Ess. Agrostogr. 53. 1812.

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Panicum panicoides (P. Beauvois) Hitchcock; *Urochloa jinshaicola* B. S. Sun & Z. H. Hu; *U. longifolia* B. S. Sun & Z. H. Hu; *U. longifolia* var. *yuannuensis* (B. S. Sun & Z. H. Hu) S. L. Chen & Y. X. Jin; *U. yuannuensis* B. S. Sun & Z. H. Hu.

Annual. Culms loosely tufted, geniculately ascending, 20–80 cm tall, nodes bearded. Leaf sheaths loose, with tubercle-based setae, one margin densely ciliate; leaf blades linear-lanceolate, 5–15(–20) × 0.5–1.5 cm, glabrous to thinly pilose, margins pectinate-ciliate at least toward amplexicaul base, apex acuminate; ligule 1.5–2 mm. Inflorescence axis 3–6 cm; racemes 3–10, 2–6 cm, stiff, diverging; rachis flattened, setose mainly from the short stout pedicels; spikelets usually borne singly or in pairs at base, occasionally mostly paired, overlapping by ca. 1/3 their length. Spikelets ovate-elliptic, 4–5 mm, glabrous or pubescent, cuspidate; lower glume ovate, 1/4–1/3 spikelet length, 3–5-veined, obtuse; upper glume 5–9-veined with evident cross veins; upper lemma rugose, mucro 0.4–1 mm. Fl. and fr. Sep–Oct.

Moist grasslands, lakesides. Sichuan, Yunnan [Bhutan, India; E and S Africa].

Urochloa setigera can be confused with forms of *U. panicoides* with pubescent, paired spikelets, especially when the base is missing. *Urochloa panicoides* has less abruptly cuspidate spikelets, a more coarsely rugose fertile floret, and a much longer mucro on the upper lemma.

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