

22. ACTINOSCHOENUS Bentham, Hooker's Icon. Pl. 14: 33. 1881.

星穗莎属 xing sui suo shu

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Perennials, shortly rhizomatous or stoloniferous. Culms scapose, tufted. Leaves ligulate; leaf blade very short or absent. Involucral bracts small. Inflorescences capitate with 2 to many spikelets. Spikelets with 4–7 distichous deciduous glumes of increasing length, 1(or 2)-flowered. Flowers bisexual, subtended by penultimate large glume enclosed by wings of next glume; rachilla internodes short, ± elongated between flowers. Perianth bristles absent. Stamens 3. Style deeply 3-cleft, deciduous, basally distinctly thickened. Nutlet obovoid, 3-sided, ± 3-ribbed, smooth to slightly tuberculate.

Four species: Africa, S and SE Asia, Australia, Indian Ocean islands, Madagascar, Pacific islands (New Caledonia); two species in China.

- 1a. Spikelets 3–7(–12), ovoid to narrowly ovoid; glumes reddish brown, thickly papery, apical half hairy; leaves with a blade 1. *A. yunnanensis*
- 1b. Spikelets 1 or 2(–6), narrowly ovoid; glumes brown, membranous, glabrous; leaves reduced to a bladeless sheath 2. *A. thouarsii*

1. Actinoschoenus yunnanensis (C. B. Clarke) Y. C. Tang, Abstr. Pap. 30th Anniv. Bot. Soc. China, 130. 1963.

云南星穗莎 yun nan xing sui suo

Fimbristylis yunnanensis C. B. Clarke, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 36: 247. 1903.

Rhizomes creeping. Culms 12–50 cm tall, slender. Leaves 1/3–1/2 as long as culm; leaf blade 1–1.5 mm wide, sparsely hairy, apex acute. Involucral bracts 2 or 3, leaflike to nearly setaceous, 0.5–2.7 cm, longer than inflorescence, hairy. Inflorescences capitate, 0.8–1.2 cm in diam., with 3–7(–12) spikelets. Spikelets ovoid to narrowly ovoid, 5–7 mm, with 7 or 8 glumes distichous basally and with 4 or 5 basal ones empty. Glumes reddish brown, ovate-lanceolate and boat-shaped, thickly papery, apically hairy. Stamens 3. Style 3-sided, not ciliate, basally inflated; stigmas 3. Nutlet white, obovoid, 1/3–1/2 as long as subtending glume, obtusely 3-sided, reticulation not prominent. Fl. and fr. Jun.

Mountain slopes; 1200–1300 m. Yunnan [N India, Thailand, Vietnam].

D. A. Simpson and T. Koyama (Fl. Thailand 6(4): 342. 1998) treated this as *Fimbristylis yunnanensis* but noted that its placement was uncertain.

2. Actinoschoenus thouarsii (Kunth) Bentham, Hooker's Icon. Pl. 14: 33. 1881.

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Arthrostylis thouarsii Kunth, Enum. Pl. 2: 284. 1837; *A. chinensis* Bentham; *Actinoschoenus chinensis* (Bentham) Bentham; *Fimbristylis chinensis* (Bentham) Tang & F. T. Wang.

Culms tufted, 15–40 cm tall, slender, 3-angled, with 2

sheaths at base. Leaves bladeless; sheath brown, with prominent ribs, margin membranous and darker, apically attenuate to a caudate apex but basal ones not caudate, mouth obliquely truncate. Involucral bracts subulate, usually shorter than inflorescence, base continuing into culm. Spikelets 1 or 2(–6), narrowly ovoid, 6–8 × 0.5–2 mm, with fewer flowers, with 5–7 glumes distichous basally and 3 basal ones empty, few-flowered and apicalmost glume with a sterile flower. Glumes brown, semicircular to broadly ovate basally on spikelet and oblong-ovate apically on spikelet, 0.2–2 mm, membranous, glabrous, 3-veined, apex mucronate. Stamens 3; stigmas 3. Nutlet cream-colored to light brownish, obovoid, 1–1.2 mm, 3-sided, smooth to verruculose and indistinctly reticulate. Fl. Sep–Oct, fr. Apr–May.

On rocks in woods; 200–300 m. Guangdong, Hainan [Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia (Peninsular), Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; tropical Africa, Australia, Indian Ocean islands, Madagascar].

