

3. LEPIRONIA Persoon, Syn. Pl. 1: 70. 1805.

石龙刍属 shi long chu shu

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Perennials. Rhizomes woody. Culms erect, terete, with transverse septa. Leaves basal, without a leaf blade. Primary involucre bracts subulate, cylindrical, erect. Inflorescence a single spike, pseudolateral, with many spirally arranged imbricate glumelike bracts. Basal glumelike bracts empty, most subtending pseudospikelets. Pseudospikelets with 2 outer strongly keeled glumes and many non-keeled glumes, most subtending 1 stamen and a solitary apparently terminal female flower. Perianth bristles absent. Stigma 2, long, slender. Nutlet plano-convex, apex not beaked.

One species: tropical Asia, Australia, Madagascar, Pacific islands.

1. *Lepironia articulata* (Retzius) Domin, Biblioth. Bot. 85: 486. 1915.

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Restio articulatus Retzius, Observ. Bot. 4: 14. 1786; *Lepironia compressa* Boeckeler; *L. mucronata* Persoon; *L. mucronata* var. *compressa* (Boeckeler) E. G. Camus.

Rhizomes creeping, covered by brown ovate scales. Culms 0.7–1.5(–2) m tall, 5–8 mm thick when dried, terete, with 3 or 4 leaf sheaths at base; sheaths open, brown to reddish, 10–30 cm, papery, margin thickly membranous. Involucral bract 3–7 cm. Spike brown to blackish, pseudolateral, ellipsoid to ovoid-ellipsoid, 1–2 × 0.6–1 cm, with many glumelike bracts. Glume-like bracts orange, dark brown, or black, ovate, broadly ovate, or obovate-oblong, 4–5 × 4.5–5 mm, concave, striate, apex rounded. Pseudospikelets with many brown glumes; basal 2 glumes lateral, narrowly spatulate and cymbiform, ca. 5 mm, membranous, keeled, with stout prickly hairs on keel, apex acute; middle glumes linear-lanceolate and cymbiform, slightly shorter, membranous, each with or without a single stamen, apex acuminate; central gynoeceium surrounded by empty glumes. Anther linear-oblong; connective apex ca. 0.5 mm, prominent beyond anther. Style white at anthesis, shorter than stigmas. Nutlet yellowish, maturing to dark gray brown, obovoid, ca. 4 × 3 mm, compressed, with 7–9 dark brown longitudinal striae on both sides, margins distally scaberulose. Fl. and fr. Feb–Jun.

Usually in coastal ponds, marshes, and streams; 100–200 m. Guangdong, Hainan, Taiwan [Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan (Ryukyu Islands), Laos, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; Australia, Madagascar, Pacific islands].

Lepironia articulata is used for making mats and baskets.

