
海滨莎属  hai bin suo shu

Liang Songyun (梁松筠 Liang Song-jun); Gordon C. Tucker

Herbs, perennial. Rhizomes long, creeping. Culms 1 to few, 3-angled, smooth. Leaves many, aggregated on basal part of culm; ligule absent; leaf blade linear, stiff. Inflorescences spicate, sessile, with 2 to several clusters of spikelets. Spikelets falling as a unit when mature. Glumes subdistichous; basal 3 glumes veined, without a flower; apicalmost glume thickened, without veins, subtending a bisexual flower. Hypogynous bristles absent. Stamens 3; anthers linear-oblong; connective apex evident beyond anthers. Ovary oblong, 3-sided; stigmas 3. Nutlet long ellipsoid, 3-sided, apex without a beak.

One species: pantropical.

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Rhizomes slender, long creeping, branching, rigid. Culms 6–15 cm tall, 1–2 mm thick, 3-angled, smooth, basally clothed with brown sheaths and their fibrous remnants and buried in sand. Leaves 3–15, covering base and lower culm, usually slightly longer than culm; sheath pale brown; leaf blade lanceolate, 4.5–6.5 mm wide, leathery, abaxial surface prominently keeled. Involute bracts leaflike, longer than inflorescence. Inflorescences terminal, capitulate, usually with 2–7 clusters, oblong-ellipsoid to ovoid-oblong, 1–2 × 0.7–1 cm, with many spikelets. Spikelets dense, fusiform-ellipsoid, ca. 5 mm; bractlets glumelike, ovate-lanceolate, ca. 3 mm, with brown lines, 1-veined, apex acute. Basal 3 glumes without a flower; basalmost glume broadly ovate, ca. 2 mm, 2-veined and with brown lines, apex rounded; second glume ovate, ca. 4 mm, 7-veined, apex rounded; third glume slightly longer than second one; fourth glume fleshy, ca. 3 mm, veinless, with brown minute spots, margin involute, apex slender. Stamens 3; anthers ca. 2 mm. Ovary oblong, 3-sided; style short; stigmas 3, slender, ± as long as style. Nutlet blackish brown, sessile, cylindric-ellipsoid, 2–2.5 mm, compressed 3-sided. Fl. and fr. Sep–Dec.

Moist sandy beaches; near sea level. Guangdong, Hainan, Taiwan [India, Indonesia, Japan (Ryukyu Islands), Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; tropical Africa and America, N Australia, Indian Ocean islands, Madagascar, SE North America, Pacific islands].