

RUPPIACEAE

川蔓藻科 chuan man zao ke

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Plants perennial or annual, in saline, brackish, or extremely hard water, totally submerged. Rhizomes slender, usually branched. Stems terete, elongated or not. Leaves alternate, sessile, narrowly linear, entire or minutely denticulate toward apex; stipules adnate to leaf base and sheathing stems; sheaths shortly auriculate, ligule absent. Inflorescences of few-flowered spikes, pedunculate; spikes enclosed by involucreal leaves at first; peduncles short at first but elongated in fruit. Flowers hermaphroditic, small, ebracteate. Perianth absent. Stamens 2; anthers sessile, extrorse, opening by longitudinal slits. Carpels 4 or more, free, 1-ovuled, sessile in flower but usually becoming narrowly stipitate in fruit; stigma sessile, peltate or umbonate. Fruit drupaceous, asymmetric, indehiscent. Seeds without endosperm.

One genus and three to ten species: salt marshes throughout temperate and tropical regions; one species in China.

Guo Youhao & Li Qingyi. 1992. *Ruppia*. In: Sun Xiangzhong, ed., Fl. Reipubl. Popularis Sin. 8: 83–85.

1. RUPPIA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 127. 1753.

川蔓藻属 chuan man zao shu

Morphological characters and geographical distribution are the same as those of the family.

1. *Ruppia maritima* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 127. 1753.

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Ruppia maritima subsp. *rostellata* (W. D. J. Koch ex Reichenbach) Ascherson & Graebner; *R. rostellata* W. D. J. Koch ex Reichenbach.

Stems elongated, densely branched. Leaves 2–10 cm × ca. 0.5 mm, with conspicuous midvein, apex acuminate or acute;

sheaths 2–10 × ca. 0.4 mm. Spikes 2-flowered, 2–4 cm; peduncles filiform, shortly accrescent after anthesis. Anthers elliptic. Carpels 4–6. Fruitlets obliquely ovoid, ca. 2(–3) × 1.5 mm, beak ca. 0.2 mm, with a stalk 0.5–1.7 cm. Fl. and fr. Apr–Jun. $2n = 20, 40$.

Brackish water. Fujian, Gansu, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Jiangsu, Liaoning, Qinghai, Shandong, Taiwan, Xinjiang, Zhejiang [widely distributed in brackish waters of temperate and subtropical regions worldwide].

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