

## 2. EICHHORNIA Kunth, *Eichhornia*, 3. 1842, nom. cons.

凤眼蓝属 feng yan lan shu

*Piaropus* Rafinesque, nom. rej.

Herbs annual or perennial, aquatic, floating or creeping, rooting from nodes. Leaves rosulate or alternate; petiole long, rarely inflated; leaf blade cordate, broadly ovate-rhomboidal, or linear-lanceolate. Inflorescences terminal, erect during anthesis but then reflexed, pedunculate, spiciform or paniculate, 2- to many flowered. Flowers zygomorphic or subactinomorphic. Stamens 6, inserted on proximal part of perianth, often 3 longer and 3 shorter; filaments filiform, hairy; anthers dorsifixed, oblong. Ovary sessile, 3-loculed; ovules numerous per locule. Style filiform, curved; stigma slightly dilated or very shortly 3- or 6-lobed. Capsule ovoid, oblong, or linear-fusiform, included in marcescent perianth tube; pericarp membranous. Seeds numerous, longitudinally winged, cross striate.

Seven species: mainly in tropical America, one species in tropical Africa; one species (introduced) in China.

**1. *Eichhornia crassipes*** (Martius) Solms in A. de Candolle & C. de Candolle, Monogr. Phan. 4: 527. 1883.

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*Pontederia crassipes* Martius, Nov. Gen. Sp. Pl. 1:9. 1823;  
*Eichhornia speciosa* Kunth; *Heteranthera formosa* Miquel.

Herbs floating, 0.3–2 m. Roots many, long, fibrous. Stems very short; stolons greenish or purplish, long, apically producing new plants. Leaves radical, rosulate; petiole yellowish green to greenish, 10–40 cm, spongy, usually very much swollen at or below middle; leaf blade orbicular, broadly ovate, or rhomboidal, 4.5–14.5 × 5–14 cm, leathery, glabrous, densely veined, base shallowly cordate, rounded, or broadly cuneate. Inflorescences bracteate, spirally 7–15-flowered; peduncle 35–45 cm. Perianth 6-parted, segments purplish blue, petaloid, ovate to elliptic, upper one larger with yellow blotch at center adaxially, others subequal but lower one narrower. Stamens 6, 3 long and 3 short; filaments curved, glandular hairy. Pistil heterostylis; stigma glandular hairy. Capsule ovoid. Fl. Jul–Oct, fr. Aug–Nov.

Naturalized, growing gregariously in pools, ditches, and rice fields; 200–500 m. Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, S Shaanxi, Shandong, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [native to Brazil; widely introduced and naturalized in tropics and subtropics].

The entire plant is used for fattening livestock, and as green manure. The young leaves and petioles are sometimes used as a vegetable.

