This is a small tribe found in warm-temperate forests.

One genus and four species: three species in E Asia and one in the United States; three species in China.


This is a forage grass of forest pastures. It has been reported to occur at 2800–3500 m in Yunnan, based on "Schizachne hengduanensis L. Liou," which name was not validly published.

Schizachne purpurascens subsp. purpurascens occurs in North America and NE Russia (Kamchatka). It has broader leaf blades 2–5 cm wide, larger panicles with up to 20 spikelets, the lower branches longer and subdivided, and spikelets with more definitely recurved awns.

10. Tribe DIARRHENEAE

Perennials with short scaly rhizomes. Culms slender, arching, unbranched. Leaf blades narrowly lanceolate, transverse veinlets present (visible on abaxial surface), narrowed to base; ligule thickly membranous. Inflorescence an open or contracted panicle, sparingly branched. Spikelets all alike, florets 2–5(–7) with uppermost floret reduced, laterally compressed, disarticulating below each floret; glumes lanceolate or ovate, unequal, much shorter than lemmas, membranous, 1–3-veined; lemmas ovate or ovate-elliptic, herbaceous to thinly leathery, rounded on back, 3–5-veined, apex obtuse to cuspidate; palea subequal to lemma, keels smooth or ciliate; lodicules 2, large, membranous; stamens 2 or 3. Caryopsis obliquely ellipsoid; pericarp thick, enlarged at apex into a conspicuous pallid knob or beak bearing 2 terminal stigmas, softening and peeling away when wet. Leaf anatomy: non-Kranz; microhairs obscure; fusoid cells absent. x = 10.

One genus and four species: three species in E Asia and one in the United States; three species in China.

This is a forage grass of forest pastures.

POACEAE

Newordia Honda.

Description and distribution as for tribe.

1a. Keels of palea smooth; anthers 0.7–1.2 mm; panicle open, branches spreading ......................................................... 1. D. japonica

1b. Keels of palea ciliate; anthers 1.5–2.2 mm; panicle ± contracted, branches erect to ascending.

2a. Panicle contracted at first, becoming somewhat lax at maturity, primary branches often further divided; lemmas smooth on veins; lowest lemma 3.5–4 mm ................................................................. 2. D. fauriei

2b. Panicle always contracted, primary branches erect, simple; lemmas scabrid on veins near apex; lowest lemma 4.5–5 mm .................................................................................................. 3. D. mandshurica


日本龙常草  ri ben long chang cao

Neomolinia japonica (Franchet & Savatier) Probatoava.

Culms tufted, erect, 50–80 cm tall, 1–1.5 mm in diam., 4–5-noded, glabrous below nodes. Leaf sheaths mostly shorter than internodes, glabrous; leaf blades flat, 20–30 × 0.8–1.5 cm, glabrous or adaxial surface sparsely pilose, apex gradually acuminate; ligule 0.5–1 mm. Panicle open, ovate in outline, 10–20 × 8–20 cm; primary branches 1 or 2 per node, widely spreading, filiform, scabrid, sparingly branched, bearing up to 6 spikelets. Spikelets obovate at maturity, 3–5 mm, florets 1–3; glumes membranous, 1-veined, lower glume lanceolate, 0.8–1 mm, upper glume broadly lanceolate, ca. 1.5 mm, acute; lemmas lanceolate-ovate, lowest 2.7–3 mm, 3–5-veined, veins smooth, apex obtuse; palea keels ciliate. Anthers 0.7–1.2 mm. Caryopsis 2.5–3 mm. Fl. and fr. Aug–Sep. 2n = 38.

Mountain slopes in forests. NE China [Korea (Cheju Island), Japan, Russia (Kunashir Island in S Kuril Islands)].


法利龙常草  fa li long chang cao

Molinia fauriei Hackel, Bull. Herb. Boissier, ser. 2, 3: 504. 1903; Diarrhena koryoensis Honda; D. nekkamontana Honda; D. yabeana Kitagawa; Neomolinia fauriei (Hackel) Honda; N. koryoensis (Honda) Nakai.

Culms solitary or in small tufts, erect, 80–100 cm tall, 2–3 mm in diam., 5–7-noded, puberulous below nodes. Leaf sheaths shorter than internodes, glabrous, rarely upper puberulous; leaf blades flat, thin, 20–30 × 1–2 cm, adaxial surface glabrous or puberulous, abaxial surface scabrid or nearly smooth, apex gradually long-acuminate; ligule ca. 0.5 mm. Panicle laxly contracted, narrowly lanceolate at first, later slightly more spreading, 12–15 × 2–3 cm; primary branches in clusters of 2–5, erect to ascending, scabrid, each branch with branchlets, loosely bearing 4–13 spikelets. Spikelets obvate at maturity, 4–7 mm, florets 2; glumes lanceolate, usually 1-veined, acute, lower glume 1–1.5 mm, upper glume ca. 2 mm; lemmas 3.5–4 mm, 3-veined, veins smooth, apex subacute; palea keels ciliate. Anthers 1.5–2 mm. Caryopsis ca. 2.5 mm. Fl. and fr. Jul–Sep. 2n = 38.

Montane forests. Shandong, NE China [Japan, Korea, Russia (Far East)].


龙常草  long chang cao

Neomolinia mandshurica (Maximowicz) Honda.

Culms solitary or in small tufts, erect, 70–120 cm tall, 2–3 mm in diam., 5–6-noded, scabrid or puberulous below nodes. Leaf sheaths shorter than internodes, pubescent; leaf blades flat, thin, 15–30 × 0.6–2 cm, adaxial surface pubescent, abaxial surface scabrid, apex gradually long-acuminate; ligule ca. 1 mm. Panicle densely contracted, 12–20 × ca. 1 cm; primary branches solitary or paired at base, erect, each branch simple, bearing 2–7 spikelets. Spikelets obovate at maturity, 4.5–7 mm, florets 2–3; glumes lanceolate, acute, lower glume 1.5–2 mm, 1-veined, upper glume 2–3 mm, 1–3-veined, the lateral veins obscure; lemmas 4.5–5 mm, 3–5-veined, veins scabrid near apex, apex subacute; palea keels ciliate. Caryopsis ca. 4 mm. Fl. and fr. Jun–Sep. 2n = 38.

Forests, grassy hillsides. NE China [Korea, Russia (Far East)].

11. Tribe POEAЕ

早熟禾族  zao shu he zu

Wu Zhenlan (吴珍兰), Lu Shenglian (卢生莲), Liu Liang (刘亮), Zhu Guanghua (朱光华), Chen Shouliang (陈守良), Chen Xiang (陈翔);
Sylvia M. Phillips, Robert J. Soreng, Susan G. Aiken, Nikolai N. Tzvelev, Marina V. Okonova

Annual or perennial. Leaf blades linear to filiform; ligule membranous. Inflorescence usually an open or contracted panicle, rarely spike-like or a single raceme with tough rachis (fragile in Parapholis). Spikelets all alike or rarely dimorphic with mixed fertile and sterile spikelets, florets (1 or)2 to many with uppermost reduced, usually laterally compressed, disarticulating below each floret;