

## 26. Tribe ERIACHNEAE

鸚鵡草族 zhe gu cao zu

Wu Zhenlan (吴珍兰); Sylvania M. Phillips

Annuals or perennials. Leaf blades narrow; ligule a line of hairs. Inflorescence a terminal panicle. Spikelets all alike, slightly laterally compressed, florets 2 without a rachilla extension, disarticulating below each floret; glumes persistent, membranous to papery, of variable length, (1–)7–14-veined, acute to acuminate; florets similar, both fertile, dorsally compressed, narrowly elliptic; lemmas leathery to crustaceous or sometimes cartilaginous, (3–)5–9-veined, hairy, margins inrolled and clasping palea keels, apex entire, awnless or with a straight or curved awn. Caryopsis ellipsoid to linear. Leaf anatomy Kranz PS type; microhairs slender or stout.  $x = (9), 10, 12$ .

Two genera and ca. 40 species: mainly in Australia, a few species extending into S and SE Asia; one species in China.

This small tribe resembles *Isachneae* and *Panicaceae* in its embryo structure and indurate lemmas with inrolled margins. However, the combination of bisexual florets, hairy, awned lemmas, and Kranz leaf anatomy distinguishes it from both.

## 183. ERIACHNE R. Brown, Prodr. 183. 1810.

鸚鵡草属 zhe gu cao shu

Annual or perennial. Leaf blades mostly rolled. Panicle open, contracted or spikelike with solitary, pedicellate spikelets. Glumes subequal, rounded on the back, 1/2 as long to much exceeding the florets, papery with hyaline or scarious margins; floret callus short, obtuse; lemmas pilose, grooved or smooth, usually awned but sometimes merely acute; paleas usually similar to lemmas in texture and indumentum, entire or bidentate, keels rounded, usually distant, sometimes excurrent into awns, margins hyaline and embracing the caryopsis. Stamens 3, rarely 2. Caryopsis  $\pm$  ellipsoid, dorsally compressed.

About 40 species: Australia, a few species extending into SE Asia, India, and Sri Lanka; one species in China.

### 1. *Eriachne pallescens* R. Brown, Prodr. 184. 1810.

鸚鵡草 zhe gu cao

*Aira chinensis* Retzius; *Eriachne chinensis* Hance.

Perennial. Culms tufted, erect, wiry, glabrous, smooth, 20–60 cm tall, 5–8-noded. Leaf sheaths usually shorter than internodes, ciliate along margins and mouth; leaf blades stiff, convolute, papillose-pilose, 2–10 cm; ligule ca. 0.5 mm. Panicle open, 5–10 cm, branches inserted singly, very slender, smooth, glabrous, up to 5 cm. Spikelets purplish, 4–5.5 mm; glumes ovate-lanceolate, 3–4 mm, 9–10-veined, glabrous, sharply acute; lemmas 3–3.5 mm, densely hispid, apex constricted, bidentate, awned from sinus; awn erect, rather stout, subequal to lemma

body; palea equal to its lemma, dorsally hispid. Anthers 2, 2–2.4 mm. Caryopsis oblong, ca. 2 mm. Fl. and fr. May–Oct.

Dry stony hillsides, grassland, sometimes the dominant ground-cover. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Jiangxi [E India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam; Australia].

The names *Aira chinensis* Retzius (1783) and *Eriachne chinensis* Hance (1861) are based on different types. Although *A. chinensis* is the earliest legitimate name for the species, its specific epithet cannot be transferred to *Eriachne* without creating a later homonym, which would be illegitimate. *Eriachne pallescens* is therefore the correct name for the species.

This is a good forage grass.

## 27. Tribe ARUNDINELLEAE

野古草族 ye gu cao zu

Sun Bixing (孙必兴 Sun Bi-sin), Wu Zhenlan (吴珍兰); Sylvania M. Phillips

Annual or perennial. Leaf blades usually linear; ligule very short, membranous, margin sometimes ciliate. Inflorescence a panicle, often large with numerous spikelets, primary branches frequently racemose, spikelets usually paired (in China), often immature at emergence. Spikelets all alike, narrowly lanceolate to ovate, slightly laterally or dorsally compressed, florets 1 or 2, falling entire or breaking up; glumes equal to spikelet or lower glume usually shorter, membranous to leathery, 3–5-veined, often tuberculate-setose; lower floret (when florets 2) staminate or barren, its lemma resembling upper glume, often persistent, 3–5-veined, usually with a narrow palea; upper floret (or single floret) bisexual, its lemma membranous, thinly leathery or cartilaginous, entire to 2-lobed, awned from apex or sinus, rarely awnless; awn geniculate with twisted column, or straight, sometimes deciduous. Caryopsis with linear or punctiform hilum. Leaf anatomy mainly Kranz MS type, including the genera in China.

Twelve genera and ca. 175 species: tropics of both hemispheres, but mainly in Africa and Asia; two genera and 25 species (ten endemic) in China.

- 1a. Spikelets with 1 floret, falling entire ..... 184. *Garnotia*  
 1b. Spikelets with 2 florets, breaking up at maturity ..... 185. *Arundinella*