

76. **ARRHENATHERUM** P. Beauvois, Ess. Agrostogr. 55. 1812.

燕麦草属 *yan mai cao shu*

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Perennial. Culms tall, basal internodes often swollen into globose corms. Leaf blades linear, flat. Inflorescence a moderately dense panicle. Spikelets weakly laterally compressed, florets 2, dimorphic, sometimes with an additional rudiment, lower floret staminate and strongly awned, upper floret bisexual and weakly awned or awnless; rachilla disarticulating above glumes but not between florets, extended beyond terminal floret; glumes unequal, thin, lower glume 1/2 spikelet length or more, 1-veined, upper glume as long as spikelet, 3-veined; lemmas firmly membranous to subleathery, rounded on back, 5–9-veined, apex 2-denticulate; lower lemma awned from near base, awn geniculate with twisted column, exerted from spikelet; upper lemma with a short straight awn or awnless; palea slightly shorter than lemma, keels ciliate. Ovary apex hairy; hilum linear.

Seven species: SW Asia, Europe, Mediterranean region; one species (introduced) in China.

1. *Arrhenatherum elatius* (Linnaeus) P. Beauvois ex J. Presl & C. Presl, Fl. Čech. 17. 1819.

燕麦草 *yan mai cao*

Culms erect or geniculate at base, rather stout, 1–1.5 m tall, 4–5-noded. Leaf sheaths loose, glabrous; leaf blades 14–30 cm, 3–9 mm wide, scabrid or abaxial surface smooth, apex acuminate; ligule 1–3 mm, obtuse or truncate. Panicle lanceolate to oblong in outline, loose to rather dense, 10–25 cm, greenish or purplish, shining; branches clustered, scabrid. Spikelets oblong, 7–9 mm, florets separated by short rachilla internode not more than 0.6 mm; glumes lanceolate, apex acute; lower glume 4–6 mm, upper glume equal to spikelet, punctiform scabrid; lemmas oblong-lanceolate, 7–9 mm, sparsely pubescent in lower 1/3 or glabrous, scabrid in upper 1/3; awn of lower lemma 1–2 cm, arising from lower 1/3 of lemma back; awn of upper lemma 1–2 mm, arising above middle or near apex. Anthers 4–5 mm. $2n = 28$.

Introduced to China as an ornamental garden plant and for forage [native to Russia; N Africa, SW Asia, Europe; introduced to Australia and North America].

- 1a. Basal internodes of culm not swollen into globose corms 1a. var. *elatius*
- 1b. Basal internodes of culm swollen into globose corms 1b. var. *bulbosum*

1a. *Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *elatius*

燕麦草(原变种) *yan mai cao (yuan bian zhong)*

Avena elatior Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 79. 1753.

Basal internodes of culm not swollen into globose corms; nodes usually glabrous.

Introduced to China as an ornamental and for forage [native to Russia; N Africa, SW Asia, Europe].

1b. *Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum* (Willdenow) Spenner, Fl. Friburg. 1: 113. 1825.

球茎燕麦 *qiu jing yan mai*

Avena bulbosa Willdenow, Ges. Naturf. Freunde Berlin Neue Schriften 2: 116. 1799; *Arrhenatherum avenaceum* P. Beauvois var. *nodosum* Reichenbach, nom. illeg. superfl.; *A. bulbosum* (Willdenow) C. Presl; *A. elatius* subsp. *bulbosum* (Willdenow) Schübler & G. Martens; *A. elatius* var. *nodosum* Hubbard, nom. illeg. superfl.; *Holcus avenaceus* Scopoli var. *bulbosus* (Willdenow) Gaudin; *H. bulbosus* (Willdenow) Schrader.

Basal internodes of culm swollen into globose corms 6–10 mm in diam.; nodes often hairy.

Cultivated in China as an ornamental garden plant [native to SW Europe].

A variegated form with white margins to the leaf blades has been named *Arrhenatherum elatius* f. *variegatum* Hitchcock (银边草 *yan bian cao*).

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