

135. DACTYLOCTENIUM Willdenow, Enum. Pl. 2: 1029. 1809.

龙爪茅属 long zhao mao shu

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Annuals or perennials. Culms tufted, sometimes stoloniferous, compressed. Leaf blades linear, flat or loosely folded; ligule membranous, often ciliolate. Inflorescence of paired or digitate spikelike racemes; racemes linear to narrowly oblong, spikelets sessile, biseriate, closely imbricate, the uppermost abortive, rachis terminating in a bare pointed extension. Spikelets elliptic to ovate, laterally compressed, florets several, disarticulating above glumes but not usually between florets; glumes shorter than lemmas, keeled, 1-veined; lower glume smaller, sharply acute; upper glume with a stout oblique awn from just below the broadly rounded emarginate tip; lemmas membranous, 3-veined, glabrous, strongly keeled, acute to shortly awned and often recurved at the apex; palea keels sometimes winged. Grain angular, ornamented, enclosed within a free hyaline pericarp which ruptures at maturity. $x = 9, 10$.

Thirteen species: mainly from Africa to India, one species widespread; one species in China.

This genus can easily be recognized by its digitate, spikelike racemes, each terminating in a bare point.

1. *Dactyloctenium aegyptium* (Linnaeus) Willdenow, Enum. Pl. 2: 1029. 1809 [*“aegyptiacus”*].

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Cynosurus aegyptius Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 72. 1753; *Chloris mucronata* Michaux; *Eleusine aegyptia* (Linnaeus) Desfontaines; *E. pectinata* Moench, nom. illeg. superfl.

Annual. Culms slender to moderately robust, geniculately ascending to shortly stoloniferous and mat-forming, infrequently erect, 15–60 cm tall. Leaf sheaths with ciliate margin; leaf blades flat, 5–20 × 0.2–0.6 cm, tuberculate-pilose on both surfaces, apex acute or acuminate; ligule membranous, 1–2 mm, margin ciliate. Inflorescence digitate, racemes 2–9, linear to narrowly oblong, often radiating horizontally. Spikelets broadly ovate, 3–4.5 mm, florets 3–4; lower glume narrowly lanceolate,

keel thick, hispidulous; upper glume elliptic to narrowly ovate, keel smooth, extended into a stout scabrid awn 1/2–2 times length of glume body; lemmas ovate, 2.6–4 mm, keel gibbous, hispidulous above middle, often extended into a stout cusp; palea equal to lemma, keels winged, wings ciliolate, tip 2-toothed. Grain ca. 1 mm, broadly obtriangular, transversely rugose. Fl. and fr. May–Oct. $2n = 20, 36, 40, 48$.

Disturbed weedy places, especially on sandy soils. Fujian, Guangdong, Guizhou, Hainan, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [tropical and warm-temperate regions of the Old World; introduced to America and Europe].

Willdenow misspelled the specific epithet as *“aegyptiacus,”* but this is simply an orthographical error, and does not affect the valid publication of the combination.

This is a widely distributed, annual weed.

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