

112. LOPHATHERUM Brongniart in Duperrey, Voy. Monde 2: 49. 1831.

淡竹叶属 dan zhu ye shu

Perennials with spindle-shaped root tubers. Culms unbranched. Leaf blades all cauline, narrowly lanceolate, strongly many-veined with obvious cross veinlets, pseudopetiolate. Inflorescence of loose or dense unilateral racemes spaced on a central axis. Spikelets falling entire, floret 1, rachilla extension bearing a bunch of up to 9 smaller sterile lemmas, cross veinlets evident on glumes and lemmas; glumes unequal, 5–7-veined, apex obtuse; fertile lemma 7-veined, all lemmas with a retrorsely scaberulous awn, those of the sterile lemmas developing into a fan of recurved hooks at maturity. Stamens 2 or 3.

Two species: warm-temperate and tropical Asia: two species in China.

- 1a. Spikelets narrowly lanceolate, subterete, 1.5–2.5 mm broad, patent at maturity; lowest lemma with straight back ..... 1. *L. gracile*  
1b. Spikelets ovate, lightly flattened, 3–4 mm broad, imbricate at maturity; lowest lemma with gibbous back ..... 2. *L. sinense*

1. **Lophatherum gracile** Brongniart in Duperrey, Voy. Monde 2: 50. 1831.

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*Acroelytrum japonicum* Steudel; *Lophatherum annulatum* Franchet & Savatier; *L. elatum* Zollinger & Moritzi; *L. gracile* var. *elatum* (Zollinger & Moritzi) Hackel; *L. gracile* var. *pilosulum* (Steudel) Hackel; *L. humile* Miquel; *L. japonicum* (Steudel) Steudel; *L. lehmannii* Nees ex Steudel; *L. multiflorum* Steudel; *L. pilosulum* Steudel; *L. zeylanicum* J. D. Hooker.

Culms tufted from a knotty rootstock, slender, stiffly erect, 60–150 cm tall. Leaf sheaths glabrous or pilose; leaf blades lanceolate, 5–30 × 2–5 cm, glabrous or with long hairs on both surfaces, base rounded to a 8–12 mm pseudopetiole; ligule brown, hispid on backside. Inflorescence 10–25 cm; racemes few, 5–10 cm, loosely spiculate, erect at first with appressed spikelets, later obliquely spreading and spikelets patent; pedicels short, thick. Spikelets narrowly lanceolate, subterete, 7–12 mm, base glabrous or hairy; glumes ovate, rounded on back, subleathery with membranous margins; lower glume 3–4.5 mm, 5-veined, glabrous or stiffly hairy near margins and apex; upper glume ca. 5 mm, 5–7-veined, glabrous; lemma of fertile floret oblong with straight back, not keeled, 6–7 mm; palea lanceolate, hyaline; awn of fertile and sterile lemmas 1.5–2 mm. Fl. and fr. Jun–Sep.  $2n = 48^*$ .

Shady slopes, roadsides and in moist forests. Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, S Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Guinea, Philippines,

Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; Australia (Queensland), Pacific Islands (Polynesia)].

This species is used for medicinal purposes. The leaves are reminiscent of those of bamboos. The barbed awns catch in the fur of passing animals, effecting dispersal of the spikelet.

2. **Lophatherum sinense** Rendle, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 36: 421. 1904.

中华淡竹叶 zhong hua dan zhu ye

Culms tufted, stiffly erect, up to 110 cm tall. Leaf sheaths usually glabrous; leaf blades lanceolate, 15–20 × 3–5 cm, base rounded to a pseudopetiole; ligule very small. Inflorescence 15–25 cm, racemes few, distant, up to 5 cm, closely spiculate with subsessile imbricate spikelets. Spikelets obliquely ovate, flattened, 7–10 mm; glumes broadly ovate, weakly keeled, 5(–7)-veined; lower glume ca. 4 mm; upper glume ca. 5 mm; lemma of fertile floret broadly ovate with gibbous back, keeled, ca. 6 mm, palea shorter than lemma; awn of fertile and sterile lemmas ca. 1 mm. Fl. and fr. Aug–Oct.  $2n = 48^*$ .

Shady hillsides by streams. Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Zhejiang [Japan, S Korea].

This species is very similar to *Lophatherum gracile* vegetatively, but has different spikelets.

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