

**74. PARAPHOLIS** C. E. Hubbard, *Blumea*, Suppl. 3: 14. 1946.

假牛鞭草属 *jia niu bian cao shu*

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Annuals. Leaf blades narrowly linear to linear-lanceolate. Inflorescence a slender cylindrical raceme, spikelets sessile in 2 alternating rows sunk in hollows of the rachis; rachis fragile, fracturing horizontally beneath each spikelet at maturity. Spikelets with 1 floret; glumes leathery, placed side by side in front of spikelet and appressed to rachis, closing rachis cavity and covering floret, asymmetrical, appearing like halves of a single split glume, strongly 3–7-veined, outer margin inflexed, apex acute; lemma hyaline, 3-veined, its side toward the rachis, awnless; palea slightly shorter than lemma. Ovary with lobed apical appendage; styles nearly absent. Caryopsis narrowly oblong; hilum round to narrowly oblong. Endosperm liquid.

Six species: C and SW Asia, Mediterranean region, northward along Atlantic coast of Europe to the Baltic Sea; introduced to most other temperate regions; one species (introduced) in China.

**1. *Parapholis incurva*** (Linnaeus) C. E. Hubbard, *Blumea*, Suppl. 3: 14. 1946.

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*Aegilops incurva* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 1051. 1753; *Lepidurus incurvus* (Linnaeus) Janchen; *Lepturus incurvus* (Linnaeus) Druce; *Pholiurus incurvus* (Linnaeus) Schinz & Thellung; *Rottboellia incurva* (Linnaeus) Roemer & Schultes.

Culms tufted, decumbent at base, 10–25 cm tall, much branched in lower part. Leaf sheaths rounded, smooth, glabrous; leaf blades linear, flat or folded, 2.5–8 cm × 1–2 mm, glabrous, abaxial surface smooth, adaxial surface and margins scabrid, finely acute; ligule 0.5–1 mm, truncate. Raceme slenderly cylindrical, 4–10 cm, falcately curved; rachis smooth, joints shorter than spikelets. Spikelets 6–8 mm; glumes as long as spikelet, narrowly oblong-subulate, 3–5-veined, glabrous, acute; lemma lanceolate, 4–5 mm, 3-veined, the laterals very short, glabrous. Anthers 0.5–1 mm. Caryopsis tawny, 3–3.5 mm. Fl. Apr–Jun.  $2n = 38$ .

Seashores, coastal salt marshes, introduced. Fujian, Zhejiang (Putuo) [Turkmenistan; N Africa, SW Asia, Europe; introduced in S Africa, America, and Australia].

*Parapholis* and a few other genera of mostly annual grasses adapted to saline conditions are sometimes placed in the tribe *Hainardi-eae*. They are distinguished from typical *Poeae* by the distinctive rat-tail inflorescence and glumes placed side-by-side. However, they are clearly related to other less specialized annual members of *Poeae*, and recent molecular evidence places them within this tribe.

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