

136. ACRACHNE Wight & Arnott ex Chiovenda, *Annuario Reale Ist. Bot. Roma* 8: 361. 1908.

尖稈草属 *jian fu cao shu*

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Annuals. Culms single or tufted. Leaf blades linear, thin, flat; ligule membranous with ciliate fringe. Inflorescence composed of racemes arranged digitately or in whorls along a central axis; racemes with imbricate, subsessile spikelets on a slender flattened rachis, terminal spikelet abortive. Spikelets laterally compressed, florets 6–20, lemmas falling at maturity from below upward leaving the paleas on the persistent rachilla, but often spikelet falling wholly or in part when only a few lemmas have been shed; glumes shorter than lemmas, 1-veined, keeled; lemmas firmly membranous, 3-veined, glabrous, strongly keeled, entire or bidentate, tipped with a stout awn-point. Grain ellipsoid, ornamented, deeply sulcate on hilar side, enclosed within a free hyaline pericarp which ruptures at maturity.

Three species: Old World tropics; one species in China.

1. *Acrachne racemosa* (B. Heyne ex Roemer & Schultes) Ohwi, *Bull. Tokyo Sci. Mus.* 18: 1. 1947.

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Eleusine racemosa B. Heyne ex Roemer & Schultes, *Syst. Veg.* 2: 583. 1817; *Acrachne verticillata* (Roxburgh) Wight & Arnott ex Chiovenda; *Eleusine verticillata* Roxburgh; *Leptochloa racemosa* (B. Heyne ex Roemer & Schultes) Kunth; *Sclerodactylon micrandrum* P. C. Keng & L. Liu.

Culms tufted, erect or geniculately ascending, 8–50 cm tall. Leaf sheaths glabrous, compressed; leaf blades narrowly lanceolate, 7–20 × 0.3–1 cm, soft, adaxial surface tuberculate-pilose at base, tapering to a setaceous apex. Inflorescence subdigitate or racemes arranged along a central axis up to 15 cm; racemes mainly grouped in pseudo-whorls or pairs, 4–12 cm,

ascending. Spikelets densely imbricate, oblong with serrate outline, 6–10 mm, florets 6–20, stramineous at maturity; glumes papery-membranous; lower glume narrowly oblong, 1.2–3 mm, apex acute, mucronate; upper glume lanceolate, 1.5–3 mm, acuminate, awn-pointed; lemmas broadly ovate, 2–3 mm, keel scabrid, shallowly concave above middle and excurrent into a stout 0.5–1 mm awn-point, lateral veins also fractionally excurrent. Grain blackish, rugose, surface finely granular. Fl. and fr. autumn. $2n = 36$.

Field margins, river banks; 300–900 m. Hainan, Yunnan [Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; Africa, SW Asia (S Arabia), N Australia, Pacific Islands; introduced in the West Indies].

This species is a good forage grass.

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