

**118. ELYTROPHORUS** P. Beauvois, Ess. Agrostogr. 67. 1812.

总苞草属 zong bao cao shu

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Annual. Leaf blades linear, flat; ligule membranous. Inflorescence composed of dense globular spikelet clusters, spaced or confluent along an elongate central axis, outer spikelets of each cluster with an enlarged lower glume and the lower or all lemmas empty, forming a chaffy involucre of linear-acuminate scales. Spikelets ovate, strongly laterally compressed, florets several, usually disarticulating above glumes and between florets; glumes slightly shorter than lemmas, subequal, membranous, narrow, 1-veined, acuminate to a short awn-point; lemmas 3-veined, keeled, membranous, shortly ciliate on keel and margins, keel acuminate extended into an awn-point; palea winged on keels. Lodicules 1–2. Stamens 1–3. Caryopsis with embryo 1/2 its length and free pericarp.

Two species: tropical Africa, Australia, India; one species in China.

The relationships of this odd little genus are still unclear. Molecular studies show it is probably more closely related to a group known as the crinipoid *Danthonieae*, from Africa and India, than to *Danthonia* and *Schismus*.

**1. Elytrophorus spicatus** (Willdenow) A. Camus in Lecomte, Fl. Indo-Chine 7: 547. 1923.

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*Dactylis spicata* Willdenow, Ges. Naturf. Freunde Berlin Neue Schriften 3: 416. 1801; *Elytrophorus articulatus* P. Beauvois; *Sesleria spicata* (Willdenow) Sprengel.

Culms tufted, erect, 10–50 cm tall. Leaf sheaths loose, glabrous; leaf blades up to 25 cm, 2–4 mm wide, often as long as the inflorescence, abaxial surface scabrous, adaxial surface hispidulous on veins, pilose near ligule; ligule 0.5–1 mm. Inflorescence 2–30 cm, globular spikelet clusters 3–7 mm in diam., discrete or confluent into a narrow cylinder. Spikelets broadly ovate, ca. 4 mm, florets 3–7; lower glume 1.5–2 mm; upper glume 1.5–2.5 mm; lemmas 2.5–3.5 mm (including awn), extended into an awn of variable length but commonly about as

long as lemma body; palea wings very variable in size and shape, often conspicuous, apex dentate. Anthers 1–3, 0.3–0.5 mm. Fl. and fr. May–Nov.

Wet places, often in rice fields. Hainan, Yunnan [Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; tropical Africa, Australia].

Flora of China 22: 450–451. 2006.