Flora of China 22: 514–515. 2006.

162. ACROCERAS Stapf in Prain, Fl. Trop. Africa 9: 621. 1920.

凤头黍属 feng tou shu shu

Chen Shouliang (陈守良); Sylvia M. Phillips

Neohusnotia A. Camus.

Annuals or perennials. Culms decumbent, often rooting near the base. Leaf blades flat, lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, usually with obscure transverse veins; ligule a narrow membrane. Inflorescence of lax racemes along a central axis, sometimes panicle-like due to irregular secondary branching; spikelets paired or rarely single, pedicels of each pair connate at base. Spikelets lanceolate to oblong, plump, dorsally or weakly laterally compressed, glabrous, florets 2; glumes subequal or lower glume shorter, papery; upper glume and lower lemma thickened and laterally compressed at apex to form a green crest; upper lemma dorsally compressed, crustaceous, smooth or finely striate, apex glabrous with a little green crest; upper palea with reflexed apex slightly protruding from lemma. $x = 9$.

Nineteen species: throughout the tropics (12 species endemic to Madagascar); two species in China.

Acroceras species are grasses of damp, shady situations, recognized by the thickened, green crests at the tips of the spikelet scales. The leaf anatomy contrasts with that of the closely related genus *Setiacis*, with long cells differing in shape on the abaxial and adaxial surfaces, silica bodies short and dumbell-shaped to cross-shaped, and stomatal subsidiary cells dome-shaped.

1a. Spikelets ca. 4 mm; nodes glabrous; inflorescence with simple racemes ..... 1. *A. munroanum*
1b. Spikelets 5–5.5 mm; nodes pubescent; inflorescence with compound racemes ..... 2. *A. tonkinense*

1. Acroceras munroanum (Balansa) Henrard, Blumea 3: 444–445. 1940.

凤头黍 feng tou shu

Panicum munroanum Balansa, J. Bot. (Morot) 4: 140. 1890; *Acroceras crassiapiculatum* (Merrill) Alston; *Panicum crassiapiculatum* Merrill.

Perennial. Culms slender, long, creeping and rooting, the erect tips 15–40 cm tall. Leaf sheaths glabrous or one margin ciliate; leaf blades lanceolate, 3–7 × 0.4–0.9 cm, glabrous or sparsely pilose, base subcordate, margins glabrous, apex acuminate; ligule ca. 0.4 mm. Panicle 4–6 × 2–3 cm; racemes 3–6, short, erect, unbranched; spikelets on short pedicels along racemes and upper part of main axis, usually paired or single toward raceme apex. Spikelets ca. 4 mm, elliptic, stramineous when mature, subglabrous; lower glume broadly ovate, ca. 3.5 mm; upper glume and lower lemma similar, as long as spikelet, 5–7-veined, apex crested, slightly protruding; lower palea hyaline, narrow; upper lemma smooth, shining, 3–3.5 mm. Fl. and fr. Sep–Oct. $2n = 18$.

Grassland on hill slopes, light shade of forest margins. Hainan [Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam].

2. Acroceras tonkinense (Balansa) C. E. Hubbard ex Bor, Indian Forest Rec., Bot. 1(3): 78. 1938.

山鸡谷草 shan ji gu cao

Panicum tonkinense Balansa, J. Bot. (Morot) 4: 140. 1890; *Neohusnotia tonkinensis* (Balansa) A. Camus.

Perennial. Culms up to 100 cm tall, nodes densely pubescent with soft white hairs. Leaf sheaths glabrous or with tubercle-based hairs, one margin tuberculate-ciliate; leaf blades lanceolate, 10–20 × 1–3 cm, glabrous or abaxial surface pilose, margins thickened, pectinate-ciliate at base, scabrous, midvein prominent abaxially, apex narrowly acuminate; ligule ca. 1 mm, obtuse. Panicle open, 15–25 × 5–10 cm, axis and branches stiff, scabrous; racemes ascending, with secondary branching; spikelets widely spaced, paired or single in upper part. Spikelets 5–5.5 mm; lower glume broadly elliptic, 3/4 spikelet length, 5-veined; upper glume and lower lemma as long as spikelet, 5-veined, apex slightly thickened; lower palea hyaline, narrow; upper lemma smooth, shining, slightly shorter than spikelet, apex thickened and protruding. Fl. and fr. Aug–Oct.

Moist places in forest shade. Hainan, Yunnan [India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam].

This is a more robust species than *Acroceras munroanum*, with larger leaves and harshly scabrous leaf margins and inflorescence.

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