

183. ERIACHNE R. Brown, Prodr. 183. 1810.

鹧鸪草属 zhe gu cao shu

Annual or perennial. Leaf blades mostly rolled. Panicle open, contracted or spikelike with solitary, pedicellate spikelets. Glumes subequal, rounded on the back, 1/2 as long to much exceeding the florets, papery with hyaline or scarious margins; floret callus short, obtuse; lemmas pilose, grooved or smooth, usually awned but sometimes merely acute; paleas usually similar to lemmas in texture and indumentum, entire or bidentate, keels rounded, usually distant, sometimes excurrent into awns, margins hyaline and embracing the caryopsis. Stamens 3, rarely 2. Caryopsis \pm ellipsoid, dorsally compressed.

About 40 species: Australia, a few species extending into SE Asia, India, and Sri Lanka; one species in China.

1. *Eriachne pallescens* R. Brown, Prodr. 184. 1810.

鹧鸪草 zhe gu cao

Aira chinensis Retzius; *Eriachne chinensis* Hance.

Perennial. Culms tufted, erect, wiry, glabrous, smooth, 20–60 cm tall, 5–8-noded. Leaf sheaths usually shorter than internodes, ciliate along margins and mouth; leaf blades stiff, convolute, papillose-pilose, 2–10 cm; ligule ca. 0.5 mm. Panicle open, 5–10 cm, branches inserted singly, very slender, smooth, glabrous, up to 5 cm. Spikelets purplish, 4–5.5 mm; glumes ovate-lanceolate, 3–4 mm, 9–10-veined, glabrous, sharply acute; lemmas 3–3.5 mm, densely hispid, apex constricted, bidentate, awned from sinus; awn erect, rather stout, subequal to lemma

body; palea equal to its lemma, dorsally hispid. Anthers 2, 2–2.4 mm. Caryopsis oblong, ca. 2 mm. Fl. and fr. May–Oct.

Dry stony hillsides, grassland, sometimes the dominant groundcover. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Jiangxi [E India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam; Australia].

The names *Aira chinensis* Retzius (1783) and *Eriachne chinensis* Hance (1861) are based on different types. Although *A. chinensis* is the earliest legitimate name for the species, its specific epithet cannot be transferred to *Eriachne* without creating a later homonym, which would be illegitimate. *Eriachne pallescens* is therefore the correct name for the species.

This is a good forage grass.

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