

**150. TRAGUS** Haller, Hist. Stirp. Helv. 2: 203. 1768, nom. cons.

锋芒草属 feng mang cao shu

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*Nazia* Adanson, nom. rej.

Annuals or perennials. Leaf blades narrow, flat; ligule a line of hairs, sometimes from a membranous base. Inflorescence linear, cylindrical, spike-like, dense, axis bearing numerous very short racemes; racemes subsessile or shortly pedunculate, falling entire as spiny burrs; spikelets 2–5, contiguous or on a short rachis, sometimes the upper reduced. Spikelets elliptic to lanceolate, floret 1; lower glume a tiny scale or suppressed; upper glume as long as spikelet, rounded, prominently 5–7-veined, veins forming ribs armed with conspicuous, stout, hooked spines, thin between ribs, apex acute to acuminate; lemma ovate, almost as long as glume, flattened, membranous, 3-veined, pubescent around midvein, apex entire; palea slightly shorter than lemma. Caryopsis ellipsoid to oblong, slightly dorsally compressed.

Seven species: tropical and warm-temperate regions of the Old World; introduced in America; two species in China.

Both species occurring in China have been confused with the Mediterranean, African, and SW Asian *Tragus racemosus* (Linnaeus) Allioni, which differs in having 7 veins (vs. 5) in the upper glume.

- 1a. Lower spikelet 3.5–4 mm, upper spikelet subequal, 3.2–3.7 mm; apex of upper glume extended beyond spines as long point ..... 1. *T. mongolorum*  
1b. Lower spikelet 2–3 mm, upper spikelet clearly smaller, 1.5–2.2 mm; apex of upper glume scarcely extended beyond spines ..... 2. *T. berteronianus*

**1. *Tragus mongolorum*** Ohwi, Acta Phytotax. Geobot. 10: 268. 1941.

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*Tragus roxburghii* Panigrahi.

Annual, mat-forming. Culms tufted, ascending from prostrate base, rooting at nodes, up to 25 cm tall. Leaf sheaths usually shorter than internodes, uppermost longer, inflated, often clasping base of inflorescence; leaf blades broadly linear, tough, flat, glaucous, 3–8 cm, 2–4 mm wide, margins thick, pectinate-spinose, apex acute. Inflorescence 3–6 × ca. 0.8 cm; racemes of 2 subequal contiguous spikelets, rachis internode ca. 0.2 mm; rachis extension absent or up to 1.5 mm beyond upper spikelet, sometimes bearing rudimentary 3rd spikelet, this often reduced to a row of spines; basal peduncle 0.3–0.5 mm. Lower spikelet fertile, elliptic, 3.5–4 mm; lower glume very small, membranous; upper glume 5-ribbed, ribs bearing hooked, thick-based spines, apex acuminate-attenuate; lemma ovate-lanceolate, ca. 3 mm, puberulous, apex sharply acute. Upper spikelet similar to lower but slightly smaller, 3.2–3.7 mm, fertile. Fl. and fr. Jul–Sep.

Hill slopes, roadsides, a weed of cultivation. Gansu, Hebei, Nei Mongol, Ningxia, Qinghai, Shanxi, Sichuan, Xizang, Yunnan [India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand; Indian Ocean Islands (Mascarenes)].

This species has been widely known under the name *Tragus biflorus* Schultes, which is illegitimate because it was nomenclaturally

superfluous when published. Panigrahi replaced *T. biflorus* with *T. roxburghii*, but overlooked Ohwi's earlier name, *T. mongolorum*, which was validly published, is legitimate, and is therefore the correct name for the species.

The spiny burrs cling easily to skin and clothing.

**2. *Tragus berteronianus*** Schultes, Mant. 2: 205. 1824.

虱子草 shi zi cao

*Tragus racemosus* (Linnaeus) Allioni var. *berteronianus* (Schultes) Hackel; *T. tcheliensis* Debeaux.

Annual, mat-forming. Culms tufted, usually decumbent at base and rooting at lower nodes, 15–30 cm tall. Leaf sheaths shorter than or subequal to internodes; leaf blades broadly linear, tough, flat, glaucous, 3–7 cm, 3–4 mm wide, margins thick, pectinate-spinose, apex acute. Inflorescence 4–11 × ca. 0.5 cm; racemes of 2 unequal spikelets separated by a 0.4–0.6 mm rachis internode; rachis not extended beyond upper spikelet; basal peduncle 0.2–0.4 mm. Lower spikelet fertile, elliptic, 2–3 mm; lower glume suppressed; upper glume 5-ribbed, ribs bearing hooked, swollen-based spines, apex acute; lemma ovate-lanceolate, 1.8–2.1 mm, puberulous, apex sharply acute. Upper spikelet sterile, narrowly elliptic, 1.5–2.2 mm, often reduced to the upper glume. Fl. and fr. summer to autumn.  $2n = 20$ .

Roadsides, other weedy places. Anhui, Gansu, Hebei, Jiangsu, Nei Mongol, Shaanxi, Sichuan [Afghanistan, Pakistan; Africa, America, SW Asia].

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