

## 22. ACTINOSCHOENUS Bentham, Hooker's Icon. Pl. 14: 33. 1881.

星穗莎属 xing sui suo shu

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Perennials, shortly rhizomatous or stoloniferous. Culms scapose, tufted. Leaves ligulate; leaf blade very short or absent. Involucral bracts small. Inflorescences capitate with 2 to many spikelets. Spikelets with 4–7 distichous deciduous glumes of increasing length, 1(or 2)-flowered. Flowers bisexual, subtended by penultimate large glume enclosed by wings of next glume; rachilla internodes short, ± elongated between flowers. Perianth bristles absent. Stamens 3. Style deeply 3-cleft, deciduous, basally distinctly thickened. Nutlet obovoid, 3-sided, ± 3-ribbed, smooth to slightly tuberculate.

Four species: Africa, S and SE Asia, Australia, Indian Ocean islands, Madagascar, Pacific islands (New Caledonia); two species in China.

- 1a. Spikelets 3–7(–12), ovoid to narrowly ovoid; glumes reddish brown, thickly papery, apical half hairy; leaves with a blade ..... 1. *A. yunnanensis*
- 1b. Spikelets 1 or 2(–6), narrowly ovoid; glumes brown, membranous, glabrous; leaves reduced to a bladeless sheath ..... 2. *A. thouarsii*

**1. Actinoschoenus yunnanensis** (C. B. Clarke) Y. C. Tang, Abstr. Pap. 30th Anniv. Bot. Soc. China, 130. 1963.

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*Fimbristylis yunnanensis* C. B. Clarke, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 36: 247. 1903.

Rhizomes creeping. Culms 12–50 cm tall, slender. Leaves 1/3–1/2 as long as culm; leaf blade 1–1.5 mm wide, sparsely hairy, apex acute. Involucral bracts 2 or 3, leaflike to nearly setaceous, 0.5–2.7 cm, longer than inflorescence, hairy. Inflorescences capitate, 0.8–1.2 cm in diam., with 3–7(–12) spikelets. Spikelets ovoid to narrowly ovoid, 5–7 mm, with 7 or 8 glumes distichous basally and with 4 or 5 basal ones empty. Glumes reddish brown, ovate-lanceolate and boat-shaped, thickly papery, apically hairy. Stamens 3. Style 3-sided, not ciliate, basally inflated; stigmas 3. Nutlet white, obovoid, 1/3–1/2 as long as subtending glume, obtusely 3-sided, reticulation not prominent. Fl. and fr. Jun.

Mountain slopes; 1200–1300 m. Yunnan [N India, Thailand, Vietnam].

D. A. Simpson and T. Koyama (Fl. Thailand 6(4): 342. 1998) treated this as *Fimbristylis yunnanensis* but noted that its placement was uncertain.

**2. Actinoschoenus thouarsii** (Kunth) Bentham, Hooker's Icon. Pl. 14: 33. 1881.

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*Arthrostylis thouarsii* Kunth, Enum. Pl. 2: 284. 1837; *A. chinensis* Bentham; *Actinoschoenus chinensis* (Bentham) Bentham; *Fimbristylis chinensis* (Bentham) Tang & F. T. Wang.

Culms tufted, 15–40 cm tall, slender, 3-angled, with 2

sheaths at base. Leaves bladeless; sheath brown, with prominent ribs, margin membranous and darker, apically attenuate to a caudate apex but basal ones not caudate, mouth obliquely truncate. Involucral bracts subulate, usually shorter than inflorescence, base continuing into culm. Spikelets 1 or 2(–6), narrowly ovoid, 6–8 × 0.5–2 mm, with fewer flowers, with 5–7 glumes distichous basally and 3 basal ones empty, few-flowered and apicalmost glume with a sterile flower. Glumes brown, semicircular to broadly ovate basally on spikelet and oblong-ovate apically on spikelet, 0.2–2 mm, membranous, glabrous, 3-veined, apex mucronate. Stamens 3; stigmas 3. Nutlet cream-colored to light brownish, obovoid, 1–1.2 mm, 3-sided, smooth to verruculose and indistinctly reticulate. Fl. Sep–Oct, fr. Apr–May.

On rocks in woods; 200–300 m. Guangdong, Hainan [Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia (Peninsular), Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; tropical Africa, Australia, Indian Ocean islands, Madagascar].

