

Botanic name : *Eragrostis tenella* Roem& Schult.

Common name: Japanese lovegrass, Shurshuri Grass (Bengali)

Family: Poaceae (Gramineae)

Habitat: Terrestrial

Distribution : Native to Asia; found in Indian Subcontinent; Indo-China: Cambodia; Laos; Myanmar; Thailand; Vietnam, Indonesia; Malaysia. a ruderal of waste places, roadsides, and on cultivated land, common throughout the Region from Senegal to W Cameroons, and throughout tropical Africa, and tropical Asia as a common weed of arable land. Grown aggressively in different climatic zones and often in invasive form due to its allelopathic effects on native species

Description: Erect, clumped herb, glabrous; Annual; caespitose. Culms geniculately ascending, or decumbent; 6–50 cm long. Ligule a fringe of hairs. Leaf-blades 2–9 cm long; 1–3 mm wide. leaves narrow; inflorescence-spike/panicle, spikelets many flowered, non pedicillate with long silky hairs; fertile spikelets; spikelets comprising 4–8 fertile florets; with diminished florets at the apex. Spikelets ovate, or obovate; laterally compressed; 1.5–2.5 mm long; breaking up at maturity; disarticulating below each fertile floret. Rhachilla internodes definite. outer glumes shorter than the lowest flowering glume; glumes deciduous; similar; shorter than spikelet. Lower glume ovate; 0.5–1 mm long; 1 length of upper glume; 1-keeled; 1 -veined. Lower glume lateral veins absent. Lower glume acute at apex. Upper glume ovate; 1-keeled; 1 -veined. Upper glume lateral veins absent. Upper glume apex acute; florets; Fertile lemma oblong, or ovate; 0.7–1 mm long; membranous; keeled; 3 -veined. Lemma midvein without distinctive roughness, or scaberulous. Lemma apex obtuse. Palea keels ciliate. Apical sterile florets resembling fertile though underdeveloped fruit a caryopsis with adherent pericarp; ellipsoid

Phytochemicals: Saponins, alkaloids, and flavonoids (leaves and roots), tannins (leaves), coumarin, ferulic acid (roots), caffeic, p-coumaric, and vanillic acids (leaves), catechin and epicatechin (leaves)

Medicinal/Economic use: Used mainly as fodder. The seed is small and fiddly to utilize - it is most commonly seen as a famine food, used when nothing better is available.