

# *Microstegium vimineum*

## Japanese stiltgrass

### Introduction

The genus *Microstegium* contains approximately 40 species worldwide, with 16 species reported from China.

### Species of *Microstegium* in China

Scientific Name	Scientific Name
<i>M. biaristatum</i> (Steud.) Keng	<i>M. japonicum</i> (Miq.) Koidz.
<i>M. biforme</i> Keng	<i>M. monanthum</i> (Nees ex Steud.) A. Camus
<i>M. ciliatum</i> (Trin.) A. Camus	<i>M. nodosum</i> (Kom.) Tzvel.
<i>M. delicatulum</i> (Hook. f.) A. Camus	<i>M. nudum</i> (Trin.) A. Camus
<i>M. dilatatum</i> Koidz.	<i>M. somai</i> (Hayata) Ohwi
<i>M. fauriei</i> (Hayata) Honda	<i>M. vagans</i> (Nees ex Steud.) A. Camus
<i>M. geniculatum</i> (Hayata) Honda	<b><i>M. vimineum</i> (Trin.) A. Camus</b>
<i>M. glaberrimum</i> (Honda) Koidz.	<i>M. yunnanense</i> R. J. Yang

### Taxonomy

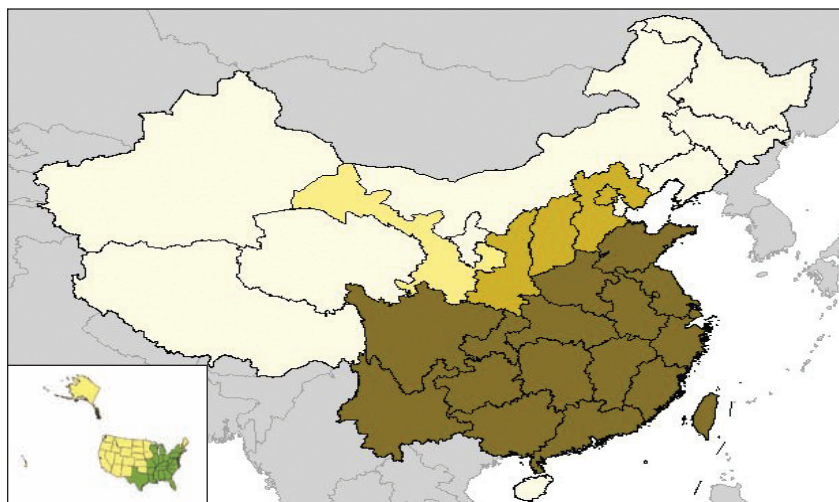
**Family:** Gramineae (Poaceae)

**Genus:** *Microstegium* Nees

### Description

*Microstegium vimineum* is an annual, with prostrate stems, and many branches that can reach a height of 1 m. *M. vimineum* spreads by rooting at nodes along the stem, with new plants emerging from each node. The sheath is glabrous and shorter than the internode. The ligule is truncate-shaped,

0.5 mm long, and covered with hairs on the underside. Leaves have a white midrib and are 4-8 cm long and 5-8 mm wide, coarse-margined, acuminate apically, and somewhat cuneate at the bases. The inflorescence is a raceme consisting of two to six spikelets, 5 cm long, and growing in a finger-like arrangement along the flat rachis. The sessile spikelets are glabrous, and 4-4.5 mm in length. The anther is about 1 mm long. The length of the anther and the awnless spikelets distinguish *M.*



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*Microstegium vimineum*. (Photo by David J. Moorhead, UGA.)

*vimineum* from *M. nodosum* (Kom.) Tzvel. Fruits are oblong caryopses, 2.5 mm in length<sup>[136]</sup>. The flowers and fruits appear from August to November.

### Habitat

*M. vimineum* occurs in moist, shady areas, such as forest edges, moist grasslands, open fields, wetlands, margins of crop field, ditch banks, hedges, and ravines. It occasionally occurs in gardens and crop fields<sup>[34][69][96][136]</sup>.

### Distribution

*M. vimineum* occurs in Anhui<sup>[84]</sup>, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Henan, Hubei<sup>[201]</sup>, Hunan, Jiangsu<sup>[80]</sup>, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Shandong<sup>[7]</sup>, Taiwan, Yunnan, and Zhejiang<sup>[102]</sup> provinces<sup>[136]</sup>.

### Economic Importance

*M. vimineum* is grown as a forage plant and is used in papermaking<sup>[49][136]</sup>.

### Related Species

*Microstegium nodosum* (Kom.) Tzvel, is a forage plant similar to *M. vimineum*, occurs in forests, on riverbanks, and



Leaves and stem of *Microstegium vimineum*. (Photo by David J. Moorhead, UGA.)

along roads and ditches, at elevations of 400 - 1,200 m. It occurs in Guangdong, Jiangsu, Jinlin, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Sichuan, and Yunnan provinces.<sup>[136]</sup>

**Natural Enemies of *Microstegium***

Twelve species of fungi and eight arthropod species are reported for the genus *Microstegium*.

**Fungi**

Phylum	Family	Species	H. R.	Ref.
Ascomycota	Clavicipitaceae	<i>Balansia andropogonis</i> Syd. & E.J. Butler	po	23
	Meliolaceae	<i>Meliola setariae</i> Hansf. & Deighton	po	62
	Phyllachoraceae	<i>Phyllachora leptotheca</i> Theiss. & Syd.	oo	23
		<i>Phyllachora ischaemi</i> Syd. & P. Syd.	mo	23†
Basidiomycota	Phakopsoraceae	<i>Phakopsora incompleta</i> (Syd. & P. Syd.) Cummins	p	23
Basidiomycota	Pucciniaceae	<i>Puccinia aestivalis</i> Dietel	po	149
		<i>Puccinia benguetensis</i> Syd.	o	149
		<i>Puccinia pollinae</i> Barclay	p	23
			po	149
		<i>Puccinia pollinae-imberbis</i> (Ito) Hirats. f.	o	23
		<i>Puccinia polliniicola</i> Syd.	o	23
oo	149			
Anamorphic Ascomycetes		<i>Cerebella paspali</i> Cooke & Massee	po	23
		<i>Ustilaginoidea pollinae</i> Teng	mo	23

† Recorded as *Phyllachora microstegii* Saw.

**Arthropods**

Order	Family	Species	H. R.	Ref.
Homoptera	Aphididae	<i>Semiaphis montana</i> van der Goot	po	189
Lepidoptera	Satyridae	<i>Lethe confusa</i> (Aurivillius)	po	203
		<i>Lethe europa</i> Fabricius	po	203
		<i>Melanitis phedima</i> Cramer	po	203
		<i>Mycalesis mineus</i> (Linnaeus)	po	158
			po	203
		<i>Ypthima balda</i> (Fabricius)	po	203
		<i>Ypthima balda zodina</i> Fruhstorfer	po	203
		<i>Ypthima baldus</i> (Fabricius)†	po	158

† possible synonym of *Ypthima balda* (Fabricius)