

1. **MONOCHORIA**, Presl.

(*Limnostachys*, *F. Muell.*)

Perianth nearly regular, divided to the base into 6 segments. Stamens 6, 1 usually larger or otherwise different from the others. Ovary 3-celled, with numerous ovules in each cell.—Leaves radical on long petioles. Scapes with a single apparently petiolate leaf, the short raceme in its axil appearing to proceed from a swelling in the middle of the petiole.

The genus contains very few species limited to the Old World: the only Australian one is, as far as known, endemic.

1. *M. cyanea*, F. Muell. *Fragm.* viii. 44.—Stems or rhizomes creeping in mud or shortly ascending in water, covered with long thin membranous sheathing scales, one or two of the lower ones produced into a leaf or a long petiole, the lamina ovate, acuminate, rounded or cordate at the base, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 in. long. Scapes from the axils of the upper sheaths with their terminal leaves at first resembling the lower leaves with a similar lamina, but with a swelling in the middle of the petiole which proves to be the sheathing base of the single leaf, from whence issues a shortly pedunculate loose spike or raceme of 3 to 10 flowers, the base of the peduncle enclosed in a membranous sheath. Flowers sessile or very shortly pedicellate, without bracts. Perianth blue, the segments 5 or 6 lines long or at length rather more, shortly united at the base. Filaments dilated, all nearly equal, without any tooth, one anther often a little longer or smaller than the others but sometimes scarcely different, all opening at first in terminal pores which are afterwards slit down to the

base. Seeds ovoid, with 10 to 12 prominent ribs.—*Limnostachys cyanea*, F. Muell. *Fragm.* i. 24.

N. Australia. Upper Victoria River, F. Mueller; Gilbert River, Gulliver.

Queensland. Port Denison, Fitzalan; Burdekin River, Rockhampton and neighbourhood, Bowman, Thozet, O'Shanesy, and others.

The species is very near to the common East Indian *M. vaginalis*, Presl, but the flowers are more sessile, and the stamens are nearly equal without the tooth on the filament of the odd stamen characteristic of both the Indian species.