
微柱麻属  wei zhu ma shu

Chen Jiarui (陈家瑞 Chen Chia-jui); Ib Friis, C. Melanie Wilmot-Dear

Herbs perennial, diffuse, without stinging hairs. Leaves opposite; stipules persistent, paired, interpetiolar, free, reflected at flowering; leaf blade 3-veined, margin serrate; cystoliths punctiform. Inflorescences axillary, sessile, glomerules of unisexual flowers (plants monoecious or dioecious); male glomerules distal; female ones proximal, or sometimes mixed in middle. Male flowers: perianth lobes (3 or)4, connate at middle, valvate, gibbous or mucronate below apex; stamens (3 or)4; filaments inflexed in bud; rudimentary ovary clavate. Female flowers: perianth tubular, slightly compressed, mouth contracted, apex often minutely 2–4-toothed, in fruit enlarged; staminodes absent. Ovary included; style short; stigma ovoid, fimbriate, persistent; ovule orthotropous. Achene enclosed by thin marcescent perianth; pericarp crustaceous and lustrous. Seeds with endosperm; cotyledons ovate.

One species: tropical and subtropical E Asia.


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Boehmeria squamigera Weddell; Chamabainia cuspidata var. denticulosa W. T. Wang & C. J. Chen; C. cuspidata var. morii (Hayata) W. T. Wang; C. morii Hayata; C. squamigera Weddell.

Herbs erect, ascending, or procumbent, 12–60 cm tall, producing slender, filiform basal overwintering stolons 10–20 cm. Stems often purplish, simple or branched, stems, branches, and petioles strigose, sometimes with mixed long pillose hairs. Leaves opposite, subequal in size at same node; stipules obliquely ovate, triangular, oblong, or lanceolate, 3–6 mm, membranous, apex mucronate; petiole 2–15 mm; leaf blade ovate, rhombic-ovate, or rarely narrowly ovate, 1–6.5 × 0.5–3 cm, herbaceous, secondary veins 2 or 3 each side of midvein, abaxial surface strigose and sometimes mixed hispid on veins, adaxial surface sparsely appressed hispid, base cuneate to rounded, margin with 3–13(–19) denticles from basal 1/3, apex often cuspidate, sometimes acuminate or acute. Glomerules 3–10 mm in diam. Male flowers: pedicel 2–3 mm; perianth lobes 1.5–2 mm, connate to middle, puberulent apically. Achene and surrounding perianth tube obovoid, 1–1.2 mm, strigillose on shoulder, often truncate at top. Fl. Jun–Aug, fr. Aug–Nov.

Forest margins, thickets, valleys, along streams, rocks; 1000–2900 m. Fujian, Guangxi, Guizhou, SW Hubei, Hunan, W Jiangxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, SE Xizang, Yunnan [Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sikkim, Sri Lanka, Vietnam].

The variation in this species is too continuous to justify the maintenance of var. denticulosa and var. morii. The plants are used in Chinese medicine to relieve abdominal pain.