对节刺属 dui jie ci shu

Herbs annual, glabrous or hispidulous; branches dichotomous or opposite. Leaves opposite or alternate, acicular or terete, stiff, base expanded. Flowers solitary or clustered in glomerules in leaf axils, bisexual or unisexual. Perianth 4- or 5-parted; segments broadly ovate to oblong, membranous or leathery, abaxially usually transversely winged in fruit, apex obtuse, acute, or awned. Disk cupular; lobes semi- or orbicular. Stamens 5, inserted between lobes of disk; filaments subulate; anthers cylindric to broadly elliptic, with or without an awnlike appendage. Ovary base sunken in disk; ovule sessile; style very short; stigma capitulate, 2- or 3-lobed. Utricle abaxially convex, adaxially slightly concave; pericarp membranous, more fleshy basally, free from seed. Seed horizontal or oblique, depressed globose; testa membranous; embryo spiral, slender; perisperm absent.

About seven species: from the Caspian region to NW China (Xinjiang); one species in China.

对节刺 dui jie ci

Plants 20–40 cm tall, densely papillate-hispidulous. Stem much branched, slender; branches opposite, oblique, straight, thin, terete or obscurely ribbed. Leaves opposite, sessile, green, acicular, straight or slightly arcuate, 5–10 mm, base slightly expanded, margin membranous. Inflorescence of axillary, globose, usually numerous-flowered glomerules, pilose; bract 1 and bractlets 2 per flower; bract of same shape as leaves; bractlets yellow-white, stiffly acicular, shorter than leaves, glabrous, base expanded, appearing ovate or suborbicular. Flowers bisexual. Perianth segments 5, oblong-lanceolate, membranous, perianth below wing slightly thickened, distal part incurved and enclosing utricle; wings unequal, dry membranous, margin erose. Filaments not exserted, short; anthers ovoid to cylindric, apex obtuse or acute, without an appendage. Utricle 1–1.5 mm in diam.; pericarp light brown. Embryo yellow-brown. Fl. and fr. Jul–Oct.

Dunes. N Xinjiang [Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan].

Horaninovia minor Schrenk (in Fischer & C. A. Meyer, Enum. Pl. Nov. 1: 11. 1841) has been reported from Xinjiang (Tacheng) by Grubov (Rast. Tsentr. Azii 2: 100. 1966), based on a specimen collected in 1840 by Schrenk "near Chuguchak" and preserved at LE. No specimen has been seen by the present authors. It differs from H. ulicina in having leaves and bracts arcuate curved, perianth wingless, and anthers with a linear appendage.