40. **NANOPHYTON** Lessing, Linnaea 9: 197. 1834.

**小蓬属 xiao peng shu**

Subshrubs cushion-shaped, glabrous or cottony in leaf axils. Leaves alternate, sessile, triangular-ovate, adaxially concave, leathery, base semiamplexicaul, margin membranous, apex subulate or pungent. Flowers solitary in leaf axils and usually 1–4-clustered at each annual branch apex, bisexual, with 2 bractlets. Perianth segments 5, free, in 2 whors, 2 in outer whorl, 3 in inner whorl, twisted into a cone, lanceolate, adaxially concave, membranous, distinctly enlarged and becoming papery in fruit, without abaxial appendages, apex acute or acuminate. Disk cupular, with 5 semiobicular, fleshy lobes. Stamens 5, inserted between lobes of disk; filaments complanate; anthers sagittate, apex with a mucronate appendix. Ovary ovoid, compressed; style terete, slightly longer than stigmas; stigmas 2, recurved or erect, linear. Utricle enclosed in perianth, ovoid or broadly so, adaxially convex, adaxially concave; pericarp membranous, adnate to seed. Seed vertical; testa membranous; embryo spiral or planospiral; perisperm absent.

Probably one highly variable species: C Asia, extending to China, Mongolia, and Russia; one species in China.

**小蓬 xiao peng**

*Polycnemum erinaceum* Pallas, Ill. Pl. 58. 1803; *Halimo-cnemis juniperina* C. A. Meyer.

Plants to 30 cm tall. Stem twisted, sinuate, gray-brown to black-brown, rough; older branches crowded, with numerous lateral, dwarf, dry branches; annual branches green, usually 5–10 mm. Leaves 1.5–5 mm, abaxially papillate; leaf axil cottony, Bracts and bractlets similar, proximal margin membranous. Perianth segments sublustrous, white-yellow, veinless, 8–12 mm in fruit. Anther appendage slightly whitish. Style light yellow, ca. 1.25 mm; stigmas slightly shorter than style. Utricle yellow-brown, ca. 2.25 mm. Embryo yellow-green. Fl. and fr. Aug–Sep.

Gobi desert, rocky slopes, arid clayey soils. Xinjiang [Mongolia, Russia (SW Siberia); C Asia].

This species provides good forage for livestock.