

1. ACROGLOCHIN Schrader in Schultes, Mant. 1: 69, 227. 1822.

千针苋属 qian zhen xian shu

Herbs annual, glabrous, sparsely branched. Leaves alternate, long-petiolate; leaf blade flattened, ovate, margin irregularly serrate. Inflorescence axillary, a compound dichasium; ultimate branches acicular. Flowers sessile, bisexual; bracts and bractlets absent. Perianth herbaceous, deeply 5-parted; segments ovate-oblong, equal or unequal, subacute at apex, spreading in fruit. Stamens 1(-3); filaments filiform, thickened toward base. Ovary subglobose; style short; stigmas 2, subulate. Fruit a pyxidium, apically plane or slightly convex; pericarp leathery, circumscissile, thickened along line of dehiscence. Seed horizontal, lenticular; testa leathery, lustrous; embryo annular; perisperm farinaceous.

One species: Bhutan, China, India, Kashmir, Nepal, Pakistan.

Some authors recognize two closely related species.

1. *Acroglochin persicarioides* (Poiret) Moquin-Tandon in Candolle, Prodr. 13(2): 254. 1849.

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Amaranthus persicarioides Poiret, Encycl., Suppl. 1: 311. 1810; *Acroglochin chenopodioides* Schrader; *A. obtusifolia* Blom; *A. persicarioides* var. *multiensis* T. P. Soong; *A. persicarioides* var. *multiflora* T. P. Soong.

Plants erect, 30–80 cm tall. Stem usually solitary, ribbed, striate, obliquely branched in upper part. Petiole 2–4 cm; leaf blade ovate to narrowly so, 1.5–7(–8.5) × 0.4–5(–5.5) cm, base cuneate, margin irregularly lobed (lobes acutely serrate), entire on upper leaves, apex acute. Inflorescence borne in axils of

almost all leaves, erect or oblique, compoundly dichasiumlike, 0.5–6 cm; ultimate branches needle-like with no flowers. Perianth ca. 1 mm in diam., 5-parted to near base; segments narrowly ovate to oblong, slightly keeled abaxially, margin membranous, apex obtuse or subacute. Stamen usually 1; anthers small, exerted in flower, without an appendage. Pyxidium subglobose, ca. 1.5 mm in diam.; style persistent; pericarp free from testa. Seed ca. 1 mm in diam., rim obtuse. Fl. and fr. Jul–Nov.

Forest margins, riversides, open hillsides, fields, roadsides, wastelands. Gansu, Guizhou, Hubei, S Hunan, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Yunnan [Bhutan, India, Kashmir, Nepal, Pakistan].

Eona Aitken (pers. comm.) adds Bhutan to the general distribution based on a specimen at E collected in 1988.

