

6. **AERVA** Forsskål, Fl. Aegypt.-Arab. 170. 1775, nom. cons.

白花菟属 bai hua xian shu

Ouret Adanson, nom. rej.

Herbs or subshrubs. Stem erect, stoloniferous or climbing. Leaves alternate or opposite, margin entire. Flowers perfect, unisexual or dioecious, small or very small. Inflorescences spikes, terminal or axillary, simple or in complex thyrsoid structures. Bracts and bracteoles membranous, persistent or bracteoles falling off with perianth in fruit. Tepals 4 or 5, ovate or oblong, membranous or papery, lanose, with only 1 vein. Stamens 4 or 5; filaments subulate, unequal, united to short cup at base, alternating with pseudostaminodes, pseudostaminodes subulate to oblong; anthers 2-loculed. Ovary obovoid or subglobose, glabrous; style persistent; stigmas 2, capitate. Utricles ovoid, compressed, membranous, indehiscent or irregularly dehiscent (bursting), falling off with perianth. Seeds reniform-orbicular, lenticular, compressed.

About ten species: Africa, Asia; two species in China.

- 1a. Inflorescences gray lanose; bracts, bracteoles, and abaxial surface of tepals pilose 1. *A. glabrata*
1b. Inflorescences white or purple sericeous; bracts, bracteoles, and abaxial surface of tepals puberulous 2. *A. sanguinolenta*

1. ***Aerva glabrata*** J. D. Hooker, Fl. Brit. India 4: 728. 1885.

少毛白花菟 shao mao bai hua xian

Herbs perennial, 1–2 m tall. Stem erect or slightly stoloniferous, terete or angulate, simple or branched, gradually glabrous downward. Leaves opposite or alternate; petiole 2–10 mm, pubescent; leaf blade ovate, oblong, or lanceolate, 1–7 × 0.5–3 mm, base cuneate, both surfaces pubescent and ciliate, apex acute, with a mucro. Spikes terminal or axillary, 1–5 cm × 3–4 mm, lanose, in terminal complex thyrsoid structures. Flowers many, dense, ca. 2 mm. Bracts and bracteoles ovate, 1–1.5 mm, adaxially pilose. Tepals white, oblong, 2–2.5 mm, with a green midvein, adaxially glabrous, slightly hairy, apex acuminate. Stamens ca. 1 mm; pseudostaminodes triangular. Utricles ovate, ca. 2 mm, glabrous. Seeds black, reniform, ca. 1 mm. Fl. and fr. Apr–Oct.

Hillsides; above 2500 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan [India, Myanmar].

2. ***Aerva sanguinolenta*** (Linnaeus) Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 547. 1826.

白花菟 bai hua xian

Achyranthes sanguinolenta Linnaeus, Sp. Pl., ed. 2, 1: 294. 1762; *A. scandens* Roxburgh; *Aerva scandens* (Roxburgh) Moquin-Tandon.

Herbs perennial. Stem erect or slightly stoloniferous, simple or branched. Leaves ovate-elliptic, oblong, or lanceolate, 1.5–8 × 0.5–3.5 cm. Inflorescences white or purple sericeous. Bracts, bracteoles, and tepals densely white lanose or puberulous abaxially. Tepals white or pink. Pseudostaminodes triangular. Utricles ovate, glabrous. Seeds reniform. Fl. Apr–Jun, fr. Aug–Oct. $2n = 42$.

Hillsides; 1100–2300 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan [Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sikkim, Thailand, Vietnam].

Aerva sanguinolenta var. *minor* (Hance) H. S. Kiu (Guihaia 13: 105. 1993; *A. scandens* (Roxburgh) Moquin-Tandon var. *minor* Hance, J. Bot. 17: 14. 1879) was described from Guangdong, but we have seen no specimens and are therefore unable to treat it in this account. Further revisionary study is necessary. The species is used medicinally.

