

2. CELOSIA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 205. 1753.

青葙属 qing xiang shu

Shrubs, subshrubs, or annual herbs. Leaves alternate, petiolate; leaf blade ovate to linear, margin entire or nearly so. Inflorescences spicate, terminal or axillary. Flowers perfect; in axils of bracts, subtended by 2 bracteoles. Tepals 5, persistent, erect, spreading, colored, scarious, glabrous. Stamens 5; filaments connate into a cup at base, apical part free, linear; pseudostaminodes absent. Ovary 1-loculed; ovules 2 to many; style 1, persistent; stigma capitate, or 2- or 3-lobed. Utricles thinly walled, ovoid or globose, dehiscent by lid. Seeds black, lenticular.

Between 45 and 60 species distributed in subtropical and temperate regions of Africa, North and South America, and Asia; three species (one endemic) in China.

- 1a. Tepals blue, oblong-ovate 3. *C. taitoensis*
- 1b. Tepals not blue, oblong-lanceolate.
 - 2a. Spikes long cylindric, not branched; perianth white or pink 1. *C. argentea*
 - 2b. Spikes cristate or feathery, much branched; perianth red, purple, or yellow 2. *C. cristata*

1. *Celosia argentea* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 205. 1753.

青葙 qing xiang

Celosia swinhoei Hemsley.

Herbs annual, 30–100 cm tall. Stem erect, green or red, glabrous, often branched. Leaves green, often tinged red; petiole absent to 1.5 cm; leaf blade oblong-lanceolate, lanceolate, or lanceolate-linear, rarely ovate-oblong, 5–8 × 1–3 cm, base attenuate, apex acuminate or acute. Spikes narrowly cylindric or with a conic apex, 3–10 cm, not branched. Flowers dense. Bracts and bracteoles white, shiny, lanceolate, 3–4 mm, with midvein, apex acuminate. Tepals white, with a pink tip or nearly pink, then white, oblong-lanceolate, 6–10 mm, with midvein, apex acuminate. Filaments 5–6 mm, free part 2.5–3 mm; anthers purple. Ovary shortly stalked; style purple, 3–5 mm. Utricles ovoid, 3–3.5 mm, enveloped in persistent perianth. Seeds compressed-reniform, ca. 1.5 mm in diam. Fl. May–Aug, fr. Jun–Oct. $2n = 36, 72, 84^*$.

Hillsides, field margins, a common weed. Anhui, Fujian, Gansu, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hubei, Heilongjiang, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Ningxia, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Xinjiang, Xizang, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Bhutan, Cambodia, Japan, Korea, India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Russia, Sikkim, Thailand, Vietnam; tropical Africa].

2. *Celosia cristata* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 205. 1753.

鸡冠花 ji guan hua

Celosia argentea Linnaeus f. *cristata* (Linnaeus) Schinz; *C. argentea* var. *cristata* (Linnaeus) Kuntze.

Herbs annual. Stem erect. Leaves ovate, ovate-lanceolate, or lanceolate, 2–6 cm wide. Spikes often cristate, convolute, or

feathery; some small branches pyramidal-oblong. Bracts lanceolate, with midvein, apex acuminate. Tepals red, purple, yellow, or orange. Utricles ovoid, enveloped in persistent perianth. Seeds compressed-reniform. Fl. and fr. Jul–Sep. $2n = 35^*, 36^*, 54^*$.

Widely cultivated as an ornamental in China [cosmopolitan].

This taxon is usually regarded as a cultivated form of *Celosia argentea*. There are many ornamental cultivars in China.

3. *Celosia taitoensis* Hayata, J. Coll. Sci. Imp. Univ. Tokyo 30(1): 230. 1911.

台湾青葙 tai wan qing xiang

Herbs erect. Stem tinged white, glabrous. Petiole ca. 2.5 cm; leaf blade lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, ca. 19 × 1.7 cm, both surfaces glabrous, base attenuate, margin undulate, apex acuminate. Flowers very dense. Spikes terminal or axillary, ovate or ovate-cylindric, ca. 4 × 1.5 cm, apex acuminate; very shortly stalked. Bracts and bracteoles ovate, ca. 4 mm, apex acuminate, with an awn abaxially. Tepals blue, oblong-ovate, ca. 5 mm, transparent, apex acuminate or acute. Filaments transparent, compressed; anthers narrowly oblong. Ovary obconic, ca. 1 mm; style ca. 3 mm. Seeds unknown.

● Taiwan (Taidong).

