

36. HALOGETON C. A. Meyer in Ledebour, Icon. Pl. 1: 10. 1829.

盐生草属 yan sheng cao shu

Herbs annual. Stem erect, much branched, glabrous or arachnoid hairy. Leaves alternate, sessile, terete, fleshy, base expanded, apex obtuse or aristate awned; leaf axil fascicular pilose. Flowers borne in axillary glomerules, bisexual and female (plants polygamous), with 2 bractlets. Perianth conic, 5-parted; segments lanceolate or broadly so, in fruit with a membranous wing near apex abaxially. Stamens 2 or 5; anthers oblong, without an appendage. Ovary ovoid, laterally compressed; style short; stigmas 2, filiform. Fruit a utricle, enclosed by perianth; pericarp membranous, adnate to seed. Seed vertical or horizontal, orbicular; testa membranous or subleathery; embryo spiral; perisperm absent.

About three species: N Africa, C and SW Asia, S Europe; two species in China.

- 1a. Branches arachnoid hairy when young; leaf apex obtuse, sometimes mucronate; flowers usually 2 or 3 per glomerule; stamens 5; seed horizontal 2. *H. arachnoideus*
- 1b. Branches not arachnoid hairy when young; leaf apex aristate awned, awn sometimes deciduous; flowers usually 4–6 per glomerule; stamens usually 2; seed vertical 1. *H. glomeratus*

1. Halogeton glomeratus (Marschall von Bieberstein) C. A. Meyer in Ledebour, Icon. Pl. 1: 10. 1829.

盐生草 yan sheng cao

Plants 5–30 cm tall. Branches alternate, basal ones subopposite, gray-green, smooth or densely papillate, not arachnoid hairy when young. Leaves 4–12 × 1.5–2 mm, apex aristate awned, awn sometimes deciduous. Flowers usually 4–6 per glomerule. Perianth segments lanceolate, membranous, abaxially 1-veined; abaxial wing semiorbicular, subequal, membranous, distinctly veined, sometimes not developed and then perianth thickened, becoming leathery. Stamens usually 2. Seed vertical. Fl. and fr. Jul–Sep.

Gobi desert, foothills, arid slopes. W Gansu, Qinghai, Xinjiang, Xizang [Mongolia, Russia (S Siberia)]; C Asia; naturalized and highly invasive in SW North America].

- 1a. Stem and branches smooth 1a. var. *glomeratus*
- 1b. Stem and branches densely papillate 1b. var. *tibeticus*

1a. Halogeton glomeratus var. *glomeratus*

盐生草(原变种) yan sheng cao (yuan bian zhong)

Anabasis glomerata Marschall von Bieberstein, Mém. Soc. Imp. Naturalistes Moscou 1: 110. 1806.

Stem and branches smooth.

Gobi desert, foothills. W Gansu, Qinghai, Xinjiang, Xizang [Mongolia, Russia (S Siberia)]; C Asia].

1b. Halogeton glomeratus var. *tibeticus* (Bunge) Grubov, Rast. Tsentral. Azii 2: 117. 1966.

西藏盐生草 xi zang yan sheng cao

Halogeton tibeticus Bunge, Mém. Acad. Imp. Sci. Saint Pétersbourg, Sér. 7, 4(11): 94. 1862.

Stem and branches densely papillate.

Arid slopes. Qinghai, Xinjiang, Xizang [C Asia].

2. Halogeton arachnoideus Moquin-Tandon in Candolle, Prodr. 13(2): 205. 1849.

白茎盐生草 bai jing yan sheng cao

Micropeplis arachnoidea (Moquin-Tandon) Bunge; *Sal-sola aptera* Handel-Mazzetti.

Plants 10–40 cm tall. Branches alternate, gray-white, arachnoid hairy when young, later glabrescent. Leaves 3–10 × 1.5–2 mm, apex obtuse, sometimes mucronate. Flowers usually 2 or 3 per glomerule; bractlets ovate, margin membranous. Perianth segments broadly lanceolate, membranous; abaxial wing semiorbicular, subequal, pellucid membranous, distinctly veined. Stamens 5; filaments narrowly linear. Seed horizontal, 1–1.5 mm in diam. Fl. and fr. Jul–Aug.

Arid slopes, sandy places, riversides. Gansu, Nei Mongol, Ningxia, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Xinjiang [C Asia].

Local people burn the plants to obtain soda for cooking.

