

### 38. HALOTHAMNUS Jaubert & Spach, Ill. Pl. Orient. 2: 50. 1845.

新疆藜属 xin jiang li shu

*Aellenia* Ulbrich.

Herbs or subshrubs. Stems erect, much branched. Leaves alternate, linear, semiterete. Flowers borne in bract axils, forming a spicate inflorescence, bisexual, with 2 bractlets. Perianth 5-parted; segments narrowly ovate, in fruit proximally enlarged and woody, expanded at base forming a flat basal surface, 5-ribbed, with a transverse, membranous wing near middle abaxially. Stamens 5; filaments expanded proximally; anthers without an appendage. Ovary depressed globose; style very short; stigmas 2, narrowly lanceolate, apex obtuse. Fruit a utricle. Seed horizontal; embryo spiral.

About six species: C and SW Asia extending to China and Mongolia; one species in China.

**1. *Halothamnus glaucus*** (Marschall von Bieberstein) Botschantzev, *Novosti Sist. Vyssh. Rast.* 18: 157. 1981.

新疆藜 xin jiang li

*Salsola glauca* Marschall von Bieberstein, *Tabl. Prov. Mer. Casp.* 112. 1798; *Aellenia glauca* (Marschall von Bieberstein) Aellen; *Caroxylon glaucum* (Marschall von Bieberstein) Moquin-Tandon; *Salsola spicata* Pallas (1803), not Willdenow (1798).

Subshrubs 30–50(–70) cm tall. Branches spreading, gray-green, glabrous. Leaves 1.5–3 cm × 2–3 mm, base slightly decurrent, apex pungent. Spikes loose; bracts ovate, nearly equalling perianth, margin membranous; bractlets shorter than perianth, apex acuminate. Wing of perianth segments yellow-brown, orbicular or obovate, margin irregularly crenate; wings together 1.5–2.5 cm in diam. Fl. and fr. Jun–Aug.

Gobi desert, semideserts, arid slopes. N Xinjiang [C and SW Asia].

The only infraspecific entity currently known from China is subsp. *glaucus* var. *heptapotamicus* (Botschantzev) Kothe-Heinrich (*Biblioth. Bot.* 143: 108. 1993; *H. heptapotamicus* Botschantzev, *Novosti Sist. Vyssh. Rast.* 18: 161. 1981), which otherwise occurs in SE Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

