

**11. IRESINE** P. Browne, Civ. Nat. Hist. Jamaica, 358. 1756, nom. cons.

血苋属 xue xian shu

Herbs erect or climbing subshrubs. Leaves opposite, margin entire or serrate. Flowers perfect or unisexual on different plants, very small, solitary or clustered in spikes and again arranged into complex thyrsoid structures. Bracts and bracteoles often shiny, membranous. Tepals 5, membranous, long hairy or nearly glabrous, base not rigid. Stamens 5; pseudostaminodes very small or absent in female flowers. Ovary compressed; style very short or absent; stigmas 2, rarely 3, subulate; ovule 1, pendulous. Utricles globose, compressed, indehiscent. Seeds shiny, lenticular or reniform.

About 70 species: tropical Asia, North and South America, Pacific Islands; one species (introduced) in China.

**1. *Iresine herbstii*** Hooker ex Lindley, Gard. Chron. 1864: 654. 1864.

血苋 xue xian

Herbs perennial, 1–2 m tall. Stem often tinged red, stout, branched. Petiole 2–3 cm, annexed hairy or nearly glabrous; leaf blade purple with lighter bands along main veins, broadly ovate to suborbicular, 2–6 cm in diam., annexed hairy, base truncate, margin entire, apex retuse or 2-lobed. Complex

thyrsoid structures terminal or axillary, composed of many spikes. Bracts and bracteoles persistent, greenish white or yellowish white, ovate, 1–1.5 mm, glabrous. Flowers small, unisexual on different plants. Tepals greenish white or yellowish white, oblong, ca. 1 mm. Ovary globose, compressed; style very short.

Widely cultivated. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Yunnan [native to South America (Brazil)].

