

24. PARIETARIA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 1052. 1753.

墙草属 qiang cao shu

Chen Jiarui (陈家瑞 Chen Chia-jui); Ib Friis, C. Melanie Wilmot-Dea

Freirea Gaudichaud-Beaupré.

Herbs, annual or perennial, without stinging hairs. Leaves alternate; stipules absent; leaf blade 3-veined or triplinerved, margin entire; cystoliths punctiform. Inflorescences axillary, clusters or cymes of unisexual or bisexual flowers (plants monoecious); bracts calyxlike. Bisexual flowers: perianth lobes 3 or 4, linear, valvate. Male flowers: perianth lobes 3 or 4; rudimentary ovary minute. Female flowers: perianth lobes 3 or 4, connate to a tube at base, much shorter than male lobes. staminodes absent. Ovary straight, free from perianth; style short or absent; stigma penicillate or spatulate; deciduous, ovule orthotropous. Achene ovoid, slightly compressed, with lustrous and crustaceous pericarp, enclosed by dry persistent perianth. Seeds with endosperm; cotyledons oblong-ovate.

About 20 species: temperate and subtropical regions; one species in China.

1. *Parietaria micrantha* Ledebour, Icon. Pl. 1: 7. 1829.

墙草 qiang cao

Parietaria coreana Nakai; *P. debilis* var. *micrantha* (Ledebour) Weddell; *P. lusitanica* Linnaeus subsp. *chersonensis* (Lang) Chrtk var. *micrantha* (Ledebour) Chrtk.

Herbs weakly annual, diffuse, 10–40 cm tall, strigillose. Petiole slender, 0.4–2 cm; leaf blade ovate or ovate-cordate, 0.5–3 × 0.4–2.2 cm, membranous, secondary vein 1 on each side of basal midvein, sparsely pubescent abaxially, base rounded or subcordate, apex acute or obtuse. Flowers ca. 1.5 mm in diam., in small clusters; bracts green, linear, simple at base of pedicel or 3 basally connate and subtending base of perianth, covered with glandular hairs, in fruit enlarged to 1.5

mm. Bisexual flowers: pedicel 0.6 mm; perianth lobes 4, brown-green, oblong-ovate, membranous; stamens 4; stigma penicillate. Female flowers pedicellate or sessile; perianth lobes 4, connate into a campanulate tube, light brown, thinly membranous; lobes deltoid. Achenes black, ovoid, 1–1.3 mm, very smooth, lustrous. Fl. Jun–Jul, fr. Aug–Oct.

Shady, wet places, rocky mountain slopes, grasslands, wall of villages; 700–3500(–4000) m. Anhui, Beijing, S Gansu, Guizhou, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jilin, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Ningxia, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Sichuan, Xinjiang, Xizang, Yunnan [Bhutan, N India, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, Russia (Siberia), Sikkim; N Africa, C and SW Asia, Oceania, South America].

The plants are used as medicines to draw out pus and reduce swelling.

