

3. SALICORNIA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 3. 1753.

盐角草属 yan jiao cao shu

Sarcocornia A. J. Scott.

Herbs or small shrubs. Stems erect or ascending, glabrous; branches opposite, fleshy, jointed. Leaves opposite, undeveloped, scale-like. Inflorescence terminal, pedunculate, spicate, cylindrical. Flowers 1–3 borne on axil of a fleshy bract, sessile, appearing sunken into fleshy rachis, without bractlets, bisexual. Perianth 4- or 5-lobed, spongy and flattened apically in fruit, with top surface subrhomboid. Stamens 1 or 2. Style very short; stigmas 2, subulate. Fruit a utricle, enclosed by perianth. Seed vertical, compressed; embryo annular; perisperm absent.

Between 20 and 30 species: Africa, America, Asia, Europe: one species in China.

1. *Salicornia europaea* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 3. 1753.

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Salicornia herbacea (Linnaeus) Linnaeus; *S. europaea* var. *herbacea* Linnaeus.

Herbs annual, 10–35 cm tall. Stems erect, much branched; branches green, fleshy. Leaves undeveloped, scale-like, to 1.5 mm, base united into a sheath, margin membranous, apex acute. Inflorescence shortly pedunculate, spicate, 1–5 cm. Flowers axillary, 3 per bract, middle flower larger, located slightly above lateral flowers. Perianth fleshy, obconic. Stamens exerted; anthers oblong. Ovary ovoid; stigmas papillate. Pericarp membranous. Seed cylindrical-ovoid, ca. 1.5 mm in diam.; testa subleathery, hooked hispid. Fl. and fr. Jan–Aug.

Alkaline and saline soils, salt-lake shores, beaches. Gansu, Hebei, Jiangsu, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Ningxia, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shandong,

Shanxi, Xinjiang [India, Japan, Korea, Russia; SW Asia, Europe, North America].

This species is treated here in a broad sense. The *Salicornia europaea* aggregate is represented in Eurasia and North America by several diploid and tetraploid races. Most probably Chinese plants belong mostly (or exclusively) to the Eurasian continental race known as *S. prostrata* Pallas (Ill. Pl. 8. 1803). The taxonomy of this group in China is in need of revision.

