

3. SESUVIUM Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 2: 1052. 1759.

海马齿属 hai ma chi shu

Herbs or shrubs, most parts with white bladder cells. Stems ascending, rarely creeping. Leaves opposite; petiole broadening basally forming a papery sheath clasping stem; leaf blade cylindrical to obovate, fleshy. Inflorescences cymose or flowers solitary. Flowers bisexual, sessile or pedicellate. Perigone 5-parted, lobes inside often pink to purple, rarely white, oblong, ending in protracted spurs. Stamens 5 to numerous, free or inserted in perigone tube. Perigynous, ovary free from perigone tube, 3–5-loculed, ovules numerous per locule; stigmas 3–5, linear. Capsule ellipsoid, thinly walled, membranous, circumscissile. Seeds many per locule, enveloped by a black smooth aril.

About 17 species: tropical and subtropical regions; one species in China.

1. *Sesuvium portulacastrum* (Linnaeus) Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 2: 1058. 1759.

海马齿 hai ma chi

Portulaca portulacastrum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 446. 1753.

Herbs perennial. Stems prostrate or creeping, green or red, 20–50 cm, much branched, often rooting from nodes, with white bladder cells. Leaves linear-oblongate or elliptical, 1.5–5 cm × 2–10 mm, below middle attenuate, base broadened

into membranous margins clasping stem. Pedicel 5–20 mm. Flowers solitary. Perigone 6–8 mm; tube ca. 2 mm; lobes 5, ovate-lanceolate, outside green, inside pink. Stamens 15–20, connate with perigone tube below middle. Ovary obovate, glabrous; stigmas 3–5. Capsule obovate, shorter than perigone. Seeds shiny black. Fl. Apr–Jul. $2n = 36, 40, ca. 48$.

Sands of seashores. Fujian, Guangdong, Hainan (including Nanhai Zhudao), Taiwan [tropical and subtropical regions worldwide].

