

**2. TALINUM** Adanson, Fam. Pl. 2: 245, 609. 1763, nom. cons.

土人參屬 tu ren shen shu

Herbs annual or perennial, or subshrubs, often with thick roots. Stems erect, glabrous; axils naked. Leaves alternate or partly opposite, sessile or shortly petiolate, flat. Inflorescence terminal or rarely axillary, a thyrse or panicle, very rarely flowers solitary. Sepals free or shortly connate at base, caducous. Petals 5(–10), free. Stamens 5–30, usually adnate to base of petals. Ovary superior. Stigma (2- or)3-lobed. Capsule 3-valved, often recurved, globose, ovoid, or ellipsoid. Seeds glossy black-brown or black, subglobose or oblate, orbicular-reniform, tuberculate or ribbed, with pale caruncle.

About 50 species: mainly in warm regions of the Americas, a few species native to Africa and Arabia, mostly introduced in Asia; one species (introduced) in China.

**1. *Talinum paniculatum*** (Jacquin) Gaertner, Fruct. Sem. Pl. 2: 219. 1791.

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*Portulaca paniculata* Jacquin, Enum. Pl. Carib. 22. 1760;  
*P. patens* Linnaeus; *Talinum patens* (Linnaeus) Willdenow.

Herbs annual or perennial, 30–100 cm. Root few branched, obconic, thick, epidermis black-brown, flesh milky white. Stems branched basally, semiwoody. Leaf blade obovate or obovate-lanceolate, 5–10 × 2.5–5 cm, base narrowly cuneate, apex acute, sometimes retuse, mucronate. Panicle terminal or axillary, large, often dichotomous, long peduncled; bracts lanceolate, ca. 1 mm, membranous, apex acute. Pedicel 5–10 mm.

Flowers small, 6–10 mm wide. Sepals purple-red, ovate, caducous. Petals pink or reddish purple, obovate or elliptic, 6–12 mm, apex rounded, rarely retuse. Stamens (10–)15–20, shorter than petals. Ovary ovoid, ca. 2 mm. Style ca. 2 mm; stigma 3-lobed. Capsule subglobose, ca. 4 mm, papery. Seeds oblate, ca. 1 mm. Fl. Jun–Aug.

Cultivated, escaping to shaded wet places. C and S China [native to tropical America; cultivated and naturalized throughout SE Asia].

Records of *Talinum crassifolium* Willdenow and *T. triangulare* Willdenow in Chinese literature are based on misidentifications of this species.

The plants are used medicinally.

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