

1. TETRAGONIA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 480. 1753.

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Herbs to shrubs, annual to perennial, rarely dioecious or monoecious, with shiny white bladder cells and sometimes hairs. Stems erect, ascending, or prostrate. Leaves mostly alternate, flat, folded, or with margin rolled downward, fleshy, entire or slightly undulate, not stipulate. Inflorescences of solitary flowers or cymes often resembling fascicles. Flowers bisexual or unisexual, sessile or pedicellate, perigone lobes (3 or)4(-7), inside yellow or green, basally united into a short tube, nut base often angled. Stamens 4 or more, fused basally with perigone tube. Ovary inferior, 2-8-loculed, each locule with one pendulous ovule. Stigmas as many as locules. Fruit a nut, perigone persistent, base turbinate or obovoid, angled or winged, mostly with 4 rows of ornaments, often apically as horns. Seeds subreniform or pear-shaped.

About 60 species: Africa, E Asia, Australia, New Zealand, South America; one species in China.

1. *Tetragonia tetragonioides* (Pallas) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 1: 264. 1891.

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Demidovia tetragonioides Pallas, Enum. Hort. Demidof, 150. 1781; *Tetragonia expansa* Murray.

Herbs annual, erect when young, becoming decumbent, 40-60 cm tall. Stems with densely placed bladder cells when young. Petiole 5-30 mm, thick; leaf blade rhomboid-ovate or

deltoid-ovate, 0.4-10 × 2.5-8 cm. Pedicel to 2 mm. Flowers 1-3. Perigone tube 2-3 mm; lobes mostly 4, inside bright yellow to yellowish green. Stamens 10-13. Fruit turbinate, ca. 5 mm, 4- or 5-corniculate. Seeds as many as locules. Fl. and fr. Aug-Oct. $2n = 16^*$

Sandy shores, also cultivated. Fujian, Guangdong, Jiangsu, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Africa, E Asia, Australia, South America].

This species is used medicinally and is cultivated as a vegetable worldwide.

