

26. ACANTHOPHYLLUM C. A. Meyer, Verz. Pfl. Casp. Meer. 210. 1831.

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Herbs suffruticose. Stems caespitose, erect, many branched. Leaves subulate or linear-lanceolate, spinose. Flowers in panicles, corymbs, or capitula; bracts leaflike, ovate, lanceolate, or needlelike, margin sometimes spinose. Calyx tubular or campanulate, membranous between veins, 5(-15)-veined, apex 5-toothed. Petals 5, red, rarely white; claw long, narrow; limb apically entire, rarely retuse. Gynophore short, rarely long. Stamens 10, in 2 series, those inserted opposite petals shorter. Ovary 1-loculed; ovules 4-10. Styles 2. Capsule suboblong or subglobose, membranous proximally, irregularly transversely dehiscent or toothed. Seeds 1 or 2, subreniform, slightly compressed; embryo annular.

About 50 species: C and W Asia; one species in China.

1. *Acanthophyllum pungens* (Ledebour) Boissier, Fl. Orient. 1: 561. 1867.

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Saponaria pungens Ledebour, Icon. Pl. 1: [3]. 1829.

Plants 15-35 cm tall. Main root stout. Stems globose caespitose, basally branched, tomentulose. Leaves horizontal or reflexed, subulate-needlelike, 2-4 cm × 1-1.5 mm, sparsely tomentulose; leaf axils with dwarf, spinose, sterile shoots. Corymb or capitulum terminal, 2-5 cm in diam. Pedicel very short; bracts leaflike, usually reflexed distally, hairy. Calyx sometimes red, tubular, 6-7 × 1-1.5 mm, white hirsute, 5-veined; calyx teeth broadly triangular, ca. 1 mm, margin membranous proximally, ciliate, apex subulate-spinose. Petals red or reddish, elliptic-oblongate, ca. 1.2 cm × 1.5 mm; claw glabrous; limb apex obtuse-rounded. Stamens exserted, ca. 1.4 cm. Ovules 4. Style exserted. Capsule not seen. Fl. Jun-Aug.

Rocky mountain slopes, sandy places; 400-1300 m. N Xinjiang [Kazakhstan, Mongolia].

In FRPS, *Acanthophyllum spinosum* (Desfontaines) C. A. Meyer was treated as a synonym of *A. pungens*. However, the present account follows Schiman-Czeika (in Rechinger, Fl. Iran. 163: 285-286. 1988) in treating *A. spinosum* (including *A. fontanesii* Boissier) as a separate species restricted to Afghanistan and Iran.

