

1. CIRCAEASTER Maximowicz, Bull. Acad. Imp. Sci. Saint-Pétersbourg 27: 556. 1882.

星叶草属 xing ye cao shu

Morphological characters and geographical distribution are the same as those of the family.

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星叶草 xing ye cao

Herbs 3–10 cm tall. Cotyledons linear to lanceolate, 4–11 × 0.6–2 mm, glabrous. Leaves petiolate; leaf blade rhombic, obovate, spatulate, or cuneiform, 3.5–23 × 1–11 mm, glabrous, abaxially pinkish green, base cuneate, margin minutely toothed, apex mucronate; vein dichotomies mostly open, sometimes with few anastomoses. Bracts subtending each flower fascicle except terminal one. Flowers shortly pedicellate. Sepals narrowly ovate, ca. 0.5 mm, membranous, glabrous. Stamens 0.6–1 mm, glabrous; filaments linear; anthers ellipsoid, ca. 0.1 mm. Carpels slightly longer than stamens, glabrous. Ovary oblong; stigma subellipsoid. Achenes narrowly oblong to nearly fusiform, 2.5–3.8 mm long, with dense or sparse, hooked hairs, occasionally glabrous. Fl. Apr–Jul, fr. Aug–Sep. $2n = 30^*$.

Forests or wet grasslands, usually under shade of trees, shrubs, or rock ledges; 2100–5000 m. S Gansu, E and S Qinghai, S Shaanxi, W Sichuan, NW Xinjiang, E and S Xizang, NW Yunnan [Bhutan, NE India, Nepal, Sikkim].