

18. HOLOSTEUM Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 88. 1753.

硬骨草属 ying gu cao shu

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Herbs annual. Stems ascending to erect. Leaves oblanceolate to elliptic; stipules absent. Inflorescences terminal, umbellate; bracts immediately subtending calyx absent. Sepals 5. Petals 5, irregularly toothed. Stamens 3–5 (or 8–10). Ovary 1-loculed; ovules numerous; styles 3 (4 or 5). Capsule cylindrical, opening by 6 (or 8 or 10) revolute teeth. Seeds numerous, dorsiventrally compressed, rugulose; embryo straight.

About four species: Europe and Mediterranean region to C Asia; one species in China.

1. *Holosteum umbellatum* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 88. 1753.

硬骨草 ying gu cao

Stems erect, 5–20 cm tall, simple or branched, usually glaucous toward base, glandular viscid. Basal leaves narrowed into petiole, oblanceolate; cauline ones sessile, elliptic, 1–3 cm × 3–6 mm, abaxially pubescent, margin ciliate, apex acute. Flowers in umbels. Pedicel deflexed after anthesis, erect in fruit, 1–1.5 cm, slender, pubescent. Sepals oblong, 3–4 mm, abaxially pubescent, margin membranous, apex obtuse. Petals white or pale pink, oblong, subequaling or longer than sepals, apex dentate. Stamens 5. Capsule cylindrical, somewhat narrowed above, ca. 2 × as long as sepals. Seeds reddish brown, 0.5–1 mm. Fl. May–Jul, fr. Jun–Jul. $2n = 20$.

Shady mountain grassland slopes; ca. 2300 m. Xinjiang [Afghanistan, India, Kashmir, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russia; Europe, SW Asia].

Chinese plants belong to subsp. *umbellatum*.

