

15. MYOSOTON Moench, Methodus 225. 1794.

鹅肠菜属 e chang cai shu

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Malachium Fries.

Herbs perennial. Stems decumbent or ascending. Leaves ovate; stipules absent. Inflorescence a leafy dichasium; bracts immediately subtending calyx absent. Sepals 5. Petals 5, white, deeply bifid. Stamens 10. Ovary 1-loculed; ovules numerous; styles 5, alternating with sepals. Capsule ovoid, dehiscent nearly to 1/2 with 5 shortly bifid valves. Seeds numerous, reniform, tuberculate; embryo curved.

One species: temperate Asia and Europe.

1. *Myosoton aquaticum* (Linnaeus) Moench, Methodus 225. 1794.

鹅肠菜 e chang cai

Cerastium aquaticum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 439. 1753;
Malachium aquaticum (Linnaeus) Fries; *Stellaria aquaticum* (Linnaeus) Scopoli.

Stems 20–80 cm, weak, apically glandular hairy. Proximal leaves petiolate; distal leaves sessile; leaf blade 2.5–5.5 × 1–3 cm, pubescent or glabrous, base rounded or subcordate, margin undulate, apex acute. Flowers terminal or axillary; bracts leaflike, margin glandular hairy; pedicel 1–2 cm, slender, densely glandular hairy. Sepals ovate-lanceolate, 4–5 mm, to ca. 7 mm in fruit, abaxially glandular pubescent, margin narrowly membranous. Petals bifid to base; lobes lanceolate, 3–3.5 mm. Stamens shorter than petals. Ovary ovoid; styles linear. Capsule pendent from spreading pedicel, exceeding sepals. Seeds rusty brown, globose, ca. 1 mm, mammillate. Fl. May–Jun, fr. Jun–Aug. $2n = 20^*$, 28.

Mountain slopes, valleys, forests, floodlands, field margins; 300–2700 m. Throughout China [cosmopolitan].

This species is used medicinally, as a wild vegetable, and as fodder.

