

6. POLYCARPON Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 2: 859, 881, 1360. 1759.

多莢草属 duo jia cao shu

Lu Dequan (鲁德全); Michael G. Gilbert

Herbs annual or perennial. Stems diffuse or erect, usually branched. Leaves opposite, sometimes apparently verticillate, sessile or indistinctly petiolate; leaf blade obovate or spatulate; stipules membranous. Inflorescence a cymose cluster, axillary or terminal; bracts scarious. Flowers small. Sepals 5, margin hyaline, midvein raised abaxially into rounded fleshy keel. Petals often fewer than 5, hyaline, less than 1/2 as long as sepals. Stamens 3–5; filaments ± united at base. Ovary 1-loculed with numerous ovules; style short, 3-lobed. Fruit a capsule, 3-valved, several seeded.

About 16 species: tropics and subtropics; one species in China.

1. Polycarpon prostratum (Forsskål) Ascherson & Schweinfurth in Ascherson, Oesterr. Bot. Z. 39: 128. 1889.

多莢草 duo jia cao

Alsine prostrata Forsskål, Fl. Aegypt.-Arab. 207. 1775;

Loeflingia indica Retzius; *Pharnaceum depressum*

Linnaeus; *Polycarpon indicum* (Retzius) E. D. Merrill;

P. loeflingii Wight & Arnott ex Benth.

Plants annual. Stems prostrate or ascending, ± woody at base, 10–25 cm, pubescent or glabrous. Leaf blade obovate or spatulate, 5–15(–25) × 1.5–2.5(–5) mm, glabrous, base attenuate, apex acute. Cymes often axillary, sometimes rather lax, 2–4 cm; bracts stipulelike. Pedicel short or absent, pilose. Sepals lanceolate, 2.5–3(–4) mm, apex obtuse, ± hooded. Petals often fewer than 5, oblong, less than 1/2 as long as sepals, entire. Stamens 3(–5), shorter than sepals. Capsule ovoid, shorter than sepals. Seed light brown, cylindric, with raised lateral hylum, reticulate, ca. 0.5 mm. Fl. Feb–May, fr. May–Jun.

On open sands, farmlands; 300–1500 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Yunnan [tropical regions of Asia and Africa].

