
血水草属 xue shui cao shu

Zhang Mingli (张明理); Christopher Grey-Wilson

Herbs, perennial, orange-red lactiferous. Rootstock stoloniferous, much branched. Leaves several, all basal, long petiolate; blade cordate, palmately veined. Scape erect; flowers forming lax, scapose, cymose clusters. Sepals 2, caducous, cymbiform, membranous, united into a spathe, apex acuminate. Petals 4, white, obovate, 2-whorled, imbricate in bud. Stamens numerous, more than 70; filaments filiform; anthers oblong, 2-loculed, longitudinally divided, with broad connectives. Ovary 2-carpellate, 1-loculed; ovules many; styles distinct; stigmas 2-lobed, alternate with placentas. Capsule narrowly elliptic. Seeds carunculate.

● One species: China.


血水草 xue shui cao

Herbs, perennial, patch-forming, glabrous. Roots orange; rootstock stoloniferous. Leaves all basal; petiole blue-gray, 10–30 cm, slender, basally with slightly inflated sheath; blade abaxially gray-green, often flushed lilac, cordate or reniform, rarely cordate-sagittate, 5–26 × 5–20 cm, palmately 5–7-veined, margin undulate, scalloped, apex acuminate or acute. Scape blue-gray and slightly mauve, 20–40 cm, 3–5-flowered. Bracts and bractlets ovate-lanceolate, 2–10 mm, margin thinly membranous, apex acuminate. Flower buds ovoid, ca. 1 cm, apex acuminate. Sepals 0.5–1 cm, glabrous. Petals white, obovate, 1–2.5 × 0.7–1.8 cm. Filaments 5–7 mm; anthers yellow, ca. 3 mm. Ovary ovoid or narrowly ovoid, 5–10 mm, glabrous; styles 3–5 mm; stigmas 2-lobed, decurrent to styles. Capsule narrowly elliptic, ca. 2 cm × 5 mm, styles to 1 cm (fruit immature). Fl. Mar–Jun, fr. Jun–Oct. 2n = 18*.

● Forest understories, under shrubs, ravines, roadsides; 1400–1800 m. Anhui, N and W Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, SW Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, E and SE Sichuan, NE and SE Yunnan, SW Zhejiang.