

23. PLATYCRATER Siebold & Zuccarini, Fl. Jap. 1: 62. 1837–1838.

蛛网萼属 *zhu wang e shu*

Wei Zhaofen (卫兆芬 Wei Chao-fen); Bruce Bartholomew

Shrubs deciduous. Stems erect or prostrate, sometimes rooting from nodes; bark peeling off. Winter bud scales in 2 or 3 pairs, membranous. Leaves opposite, decussate; leaf blade simple. Inflorescence terminal, a corymbose cyme, few branched; bracts persistent. Sterile flowers few, large. Fertile flowers numerous, small. Calyx tube adnate to ovary; teeth persistent. Petals 4, free, valvate in bud, fleshy, falling early. Stamens very numerous, multiseriate; filaments basally slightly connate; anthers basifixed, broadly oblong, apex subrounded. Ovary inferior, 2-loculed; ovules numerous. Styles 2, erect or spreading; stigmas papillose or adaxially oblique. Fruit an apically poricidal capsule, obconical, 2-valved. Seeds numerous, small, winged at both ends.

One species: China, Japan.

1. *Platycrater arguta* Siebold & Zuccarini, Fl. Jap. 1: 64. 1837–1838.

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Shrubs 0.5–3 m tall. Branchlets brown, subglabrous. Petiole 1–7 cm; leaf blade lanceolate to elliptic, 9–15 × 3–6 cm, membranous to papery, both surfaces pubescent or adaxially subglabrous, secondary veins 7–9 on both sides of midvein, slender, abaxially slightly prominent, base narrowly cuneate, slightly decurrent, margin roughly serrate to serrulate. Inflorescence subglabrous; bracts linear. Sterile flowers with sepals 3 or 4, broadly ovate, connate from base to middle and forming a triangle or square 2.5–2.8 cm in diam. in fruit, translucent and thinly net veined. Fertile flowers with calyx tube turbinate, 4–5 mm; teeth 4 or 5, triangular-ovate to narrowly triangular, 4–5.5 mm, to 7 mm in fruit. Petals ovate, ca. 7 mm. Filaments filiform; anthers subglobose, ca. 1 mm in diam. Styles slender, ca. 1 cm in fruit; stigmas small. Capsule 8–9 mm, apically 6–8 mm in diam., striate. Seeds dark brown, compressed ellipsoid, 0.6–0.8 mm, thinly striate, shortly winged. Fl. Jul, fr. Sep–Oct.

Sparse forests or thickets in valleys, stream banks, mountain slopes; 400–1800 m. Anhui, Fujian, Jiangxi, Zhejiang [Japan].

The Chinese plants were described as *Platycrater arguta* var. *sinensis* H. Hara (J. Jap. Bot. 61: 70. 1986), which differs from the Japanese plants (var. *arguta*) in having leaf blades abaxially glabrous or sparsely pubescent with appressed hairs along veins (vs. abaxially densely hairy with spreading hairs along veins), and both calyx and ovary glabrous (see Katsuyama, J. Jap. Bot. 74: 317–319. 1999).

