
鲜卑花属 xian bei hua shu

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About four species: W China, Russia (Siberia); Europe; three species (two endemic) in China.

The species of Sibiraea are very similar and are sometimes all placed in S. laevigata.

1a. Peduncle, pedicels, and leaf blades glabrous ................................................................. 1. S. laevigata
1b. Peduncle and pedicels pubescent to villous.

2a. Leaf blades narrowly lanceolate or oblanceolate, rarely long elliptic, glabrescent when old; peduncle and pedicels pubescent; petals white ................................................................. 2. S. angustata
2b. Leaf blades oblong-obovate to oblanceolate, abaxially densely tomentose; peduncle and pedicels villous; petals yellow-white ................................................................. 3. S. tomentosa


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Spiraea laevigata Linnaeus, Mant. Pl. 2: 244. 1771;
Sibiraea altaensis (Laxmann) C. K. Schneider; S. glaberima K. S. Hao; Spiraea altaica Pallas; S. altaïensis Laxmann.

Shrubs to 1.5 m tall. Branchlets glabrous; buds ovoid, slightly pubescent. Leaves usually solitary at axils on current year’s growth, clustered on older branchlets; leaf blade linear-lanceolate, broadly lanceolate, or oblong-oblancoleate, 4–6.5 × 1–2.3 cm, glabrous on both surfaces, base attenuate, apex acute, rarely obtuse. Panicles 5–8 cm wide; peduncle glabrous; bracts ca. 3 mm, glabrous on both surfaces, apex acute to acuminate. Flowers ca. 5 mm in diam.; pedicel ca. 3 mm, glabrous. Hypanthium glabrous. Sepals triangular-ovate, ca. 1.5 mm, glabrous on both surfaces. Petals white, obovate, base attenuate with a broad, cuneate claw, apex rounded. Carpels glabrous. Follicles rarely spreading, 3–4 mm; fruiting pedicel 3–5 mm, glabrous. Fl. Jul, fr. Aug–Sep.

Open forests, slopes, meadows, stream sides. S Gansu (Min Xian, Xigu Xian), E Qinghai (Haiyan Xian, Xining Shi), E Xizang (Sog Xian) [Kazakhstan, Russia (Siberia); SE Europe (Bosnia, Croatia)].

The Asian and European populations are widely disjunct, separated by over 5000 km.


窄叶鲜卑花 zhai ye xian bei hua


Shrubs to 2.5 m tall. Branchlets slightly pubescent when young, glabrescent; buds ovoid or trigonous-ovoid, slightly pubescent on scale margins. Leaves solitary at axils on current year’s growth, clustered on older branchlets; leaf blade
or apiculate. Panicles 5–8 × 4–6 cm; peduncle densely pubescent; bracts 2–3 mm, glabrous on both surfaces, apex acuminate. Flowers ca. 8 mm in diam.; pedicel 3–5 mm, pubescent. Hypanthium pubescent abaxially. Sepals broadly triangular, ca. 1.5 mm, pubescent on both surfaces. Petals white, broadly obovate, base cuneate, apex rounded. Carpels glabrous. Follicles ca. 4 mm; fruiting pedicel 3–5 mm, pubescent. Fl. Jun, fr. Aug–Sep.

- Open forests, slopes, valley roadsides; 3000–4000 m. Gansu, Qinghai, Sichuan, Xizang, Yunnan.


毛叶鲜卑花  mao ye xian bei hua

Shrubs to 1 m tall. Branchlets sericeous-pubescent when young, almost glabrescent; buds long ovoid, slightly tomentose. Leaves clustered at tips of short branches; leaf blade oblong-obovate to oblanceolate, 5–7 × 2–2.5 cm, slightly leathery, densely white sericeous-tomentose on both surfaces when young, later sparsely tomentose only abaxially, base cuneate, apex acute. Panicle 5–8 × 3–4.5 cm; peduncle sparsely villous; bracts ca. 2 mm, slightly pubescent, apex obtuse. Flowers 5–8 mm in diam.; pedicel ca. 2 mm, slightly villous. Hypanthium sparsely villous abaxially. Sepals triangular or broadly so, ca. 1.5 mm, sparsely villous on both surfaces. Petals yellow-white, spatulate, base cuneate, apex obtuse. Carpels pubescent along adaxial suture. Follicles erect, 3–4 mm; fruiting pedicel 2–3 mm, sparsely villous. Fl. Jun, fr. Aug.

- Slopes, stream sides, moist places on rocks; 3500–4000 m. NW Yunnan.