

**98. PSOPHOCARPUS** Necker ex Candolle, Prodr. 2: 403. 1825, nom. cons.

四棱豆属 *si leng dou shu*

Wu Delin (吴德邻 *Wu Te-lin*); Mats Thulin

*Botor* Adanson.

Herbs, climbing or prostrate, rarely erect, with tubers. Leaves pinnately 3-foliolate; stipules produced below point of insertion; leaflets stipellate. Flowers solitary or in axillary racemes with swollen nodes. Bracts small, very caducous; bracteoles larger, membranous, persistent for a time. Calyx 5-toothed, 2 upper teeth connate into entire or bifid lip. Corolla lilac or violet, exerted from calyx; standard suborbicular, appendaged with basal auricles; wings obliquely obovate; keel incurved at apex, obtuse. Vexillary stamens free at base, connate with tube in middle; anthers uniform, 5 basifixed alternating with 5 dorsifixed. Ovary shortly stipitate; ovules 3–21; style incurved; stigma globose, densely penicillate-villous. Legumes oblong, 4-winged lengthwise, septate between seeds. Seeds ovate or oblong-elliptic, with or without aril.

About 10 species: distributed in tropical regions of the Old World; one species (introduced) in China.

**1. *Psophocarpus tetragonolobus*** (Linnaeus) Candolle, Prodr. 2: 403. 1825.

四棱豆 *si leng dou*

*Dolichos tetragonolobus* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 2: 1162. 1759; *Botor tetragonolobus* (Linnaeus) Kuntze.

Herbs, annual or perennial, climbing, with tubers. Stems 2–3 m or more, glabrous. Stipules dorsifixed, ovate to lanceolate, 0.8–1.2 cm; petiole sulcate; leaflets ovate-deltoid, 4–15 × 3.5–12 cm, base truncate or rounded, apex acute or acuminate. Racemes axillary, 1–10 cm, 2–12-flowered; peduncles 5–15 cm; bracteoles suborbicular, 2.5–4.5 mm in diam. Calyx cam-

panulate, ca. 1.5 cm. Standard green outside, pale blue inside, ca. 3.5 cm in diam., base appendaged, apex emarginate; wings pale blue, ca. 3 cm, with T-shaped auricle at middle of claw; keel white tinged with pale blue, slightly incurved with rounded auricle at base. Legumes yellow-green or green, sometimes with red spots, tetragonal, 10–25(–40) × 2–3.5 cm, wings 0.3–1 cm wide with serrate margins. Seeds 8–17, white, yellow, brown, black, or variegated, subglobose, 0.6–1 cm in diam., shining, margin arillate. Fr. Oct–Nov.

Cultivated. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Taiwan, Yunnan [native perhaps to tropical Asia; cultivated throughout the tropics].

This species is used for food; parts are eaten as vegetables.

