

144. **SPHAEROPHYSA** Candolle, Prodr. 2: 270. 1825.

苦马豆属 *ku ma dou shu*

Sun Hang (孙航); Kai Larsen

Shrubs, small, or perennial herbs, glabrous or with pallid appressed hairs. Leaves imparipinnate; stipules small; leaflets 3 to numerous, entire, estipellate. Racemes axillary. Calyx teeth subequal or upper 2 connivent. Corolla red; standard orbicular, reflexed at margins; wings falcate-oblong; keel inrolled and blunt at apex. Stamens diadelphous; anthers homomorphic. Ovary long stipitate; ovules numerous; style incurved, adaxially longitudinally barbate; stigma terminal, capitate or oblique. Legume inflated, subglabrous, nearly indehiscent, with long stalk at base, ventral suture slightly sunken, segments membranous or leathery. Seeds numerous, reniform; funicle filiform.  $x = 8$ .

Two species: mainly in C, E, and SW Asia and Siberia; one species in China.

**1. *Sphaerophysa salsula*** (Pallas) Candolle, Prodr. 2: 271. 1825.

苦马豆 *ku ma dou*

*Phaca salsula* Pallas, Reise Russ. Reich. 3: 747. 1776;  
*Swainsona salsula* (Pallas) Taubert.

Subshrubs or perennial herbs. Stems erect or lower part stoloniferous, 0.3–0.6 m tall, rarely to 1.3 m. Branches with longitudinal rib, with sparse to dense pallid appressed hairs. Leaves 11–21-foliolate; stipules linear-lanceolate or triangular to subulate; rachis 5–8.5 cm, adaxially grooved; petiolule short, puberulent; leaflets obovate to obovate-oblong, 5–15(–25) × 3–6(–10) mm, abaxially with appressed white fine hairs, adaxially with scattered hairs or glabrous, lateral veins inconspicuous, base rounded to broadly cuneate, apex retuse to rounded, mucronate. Racemes often longer than leaves, 6.5–13(–17) cm, 6–16-flowered; bract ovate-lanceolate. Pedicel 4–5 mm, densely white pilose, bracteoles linear to subulate. Calyx campanulate;

teeth triangular, upper 2 shorter and wider, others longer and narrower, outside white pilose. Corolla red, becoming purple; standard suborbicular, reflexed outward, 12–13 × 12–16 mm, base shortly stipitate, apex retuse; wings shorter than keel, ca. 12 mm (including stalk), apex rounded, base with slightly curved stalk ca. 3 mm and auriculate lobes ca. 2 mm, lobes rounded at apex; keel ca. 13 × 4–5 mm, blunt at apex, stalk ca. 4.5 mm. Ovary ± linear, densely white pilose; style curved, only inner surface sparsely longitudinally barbate; stigma spheroidal. Legume ellipsoid or broadly ellipsoid, turgid, 1.7–3.5 × 1.7–1.8 cm, apex rounded, stalk ca. 10 mm, segments membranous, outside sparsely white pilose, densely so on suture. Seeds brown, reniform to nearly semicircular, ca. 2.5 mm; funicle 1–3 mm; hilum rounded and sunken. Fl. May–Aug, fr. Jun–Sep.

Mountain slopes, plains, wastelands, sand, oases, ditch sides, around salt ponds; 1000–3200 m. Gansu, Hebei, Jilin, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Ningxia, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Xinjiang [Mongolia, Russia].

