3. TETRAENA Maximowicz, Enum. Fl. Mongolia, 129. 1889, nom. cons.

四合木属 si he mu shu

Petrusia Baillon.

Shrubs. Young branches and leaves with T-shaped trichomes. Stipules dry membranous. Leaves opposite or fascicled. Flowers axillary, solitary. Sepals 4. Petals 4. Stamens 8, in 2 whorls; filaments with white membranous appendages at base. Ovary 4-carpellate; stigma persistent. Fruit 4-valved. Seeds without endosperm.

● One species: China.

B.-A. Beier et al. (Pl. Syst. Evol. 240: 11–39. 2003) proposed a new phylogenetic system in the subfamily of Zygophylloideae based on molecular and morphological data. This treatment recognized 40 species under the genus *Tetraena*, most of which were new combinations transferred from the genus *Zygophyllum*. According to this concept, *Tetraena* is distributed from Africa to Asia in a very wide range, which contrasts with the traditional concept that recognizes *Tetraena* as a unispecific genus endemic to Nei Mongol.

1. Tetraena mongolica Maximowicz, Enum. Pl. Mongolia, 129. 1889.

四合木 si he mu

Shrubs 40–80 cm tall, much branched. Old branches dark purple to brownish red, glabrate; current branchlets yellowish white, with T-shaped trichomes. Stipules white, ovate, membranous. Leaves on old branches fascicled and on current branchlets nearly opposite, sessile; leaflet blades grayish blue, oblanceolate, 5–7 × 2–3 mm, both surfaces with T-shaped trichomes, margin entire, apex acute with short sharp tip. Flowers axillary, solitary. Pedicel 2–4 mm. Sepals 4, grayish, ovate to elliptic, ca. 3 × 2.5 mm, with T-shaped trichomes. Petals 4, white, elliptic to rotund, ca. 2 × 1.5 mm. Stamens 8, in 2 whorls, outer ones shorter; filament with white membranous appendages at base. Ovary 4-carpellate. Fruit pendulous, 4-valved. Schizocarp linear-ovoid to crescent-shaped, 5–6 mm, with 4 carpels. Seeds oblong-ovoid, muriculate. Fl. May–Jan, fr. Jul–Oct.

● River terraces, low mountains in steppes, desert areas. Nei Mongol.

Fl. China 11: 50. 2008.