
**Stelleropsis** Pobedimova.

Annual or perennial herbs, or small deciduous shrubs. Leaves alternate; leaf blade elliptic, linear, or lanceolate, herbaceous. Inflorescence usually terminal, sometimes apparently axillary, laxy racemose to capitulate, without involucre. Flowers bisexual, small, 4(or 5)-merous. Calyx reddish, white, or green; tube persistent, slender, urceolate, funnel-shaped, or cylindric, contracted and articulate at apex of ovary; lobes 4, erect and slightly spreading. Petaloid appendages absent. Stamens as many as or twice as many as calyx lobes, in one or two series, opposite to calyx lobes when in one series; filaments absent; anthers oblong, included. Disk annular, oblique, sometimes tiny or absent. Ovary ± stipitate, glabrous, 1-loculed; style excentric or subterminal, short; stigma subclavate, thick. Fruit dry, enclosed by persistent calyx base; pericarp thin, glossy black.

Sixteen species: C and SW Asia, SE Europe (European Russia); four species in China.

The authors have accepted the view of Kit Tan (Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh 40: 219-220. 1982) that the difference in habit used to separate the annual herbs of *Diarthron* sensu stricto from the perennial herbs traditionally placed in *Stelleropsis* and the small shrubs in the C Asian genus *Dendrostellera* (C. A. Meyer) Tieghem are outweighed by the similar 4-merous flowers and ebracteate inflorescences combined with the continuous range of variation in habit.

1a. Calyx tube 2–4 mm; annual herbs, mainly branched well above base, roots not thickened; hypogynous disk very reduced or absent; inflorescence terminal, lax, elongated, spikelike.

2a. Calyx green or light green, lower part of tube not ribbed, lobes obovate-elliptic; stamens 4 or 5 in 1 series .... 1. *D. linifolium*

2b. Calyx white, lower part of tube ribbed, lobes linear; stamens 8 in 2 series ................................................. 2. *D. vesiculosum*

1b. Calyx tube 8–12 mm; small shrub or perennial herb, if herbaceous or suffrutescence then with stems rarely branched above base and roots often thickened; hypogynous disk present, annular; inflorescence a compact raceme, spike, or head, sometimes grouped into panicles, sometimes apparently axillary.

3a. Inflorescence elongated; leaf blade 5–10 mm wide; calyx tube 8–10 mm .......................................................... 3. *D. altaicum*

3b. Inflorescence capitately elongated; leaf blade 3–5 mm wide; calyx tube 10–12 mm ................................................. 4. *D. tianschanicum*


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Sandy places; 600–900 m. Xinjiang (Gongliu, Tacheng, Xinyuan) [Afghanistan, NW India, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russia (including European part); SW Asia].


阿尔泰假狼毒** a er tai jia lang du


Herbs perennial, 20–50 cm tall. Rhizome woody, brown. Stems many, clustered, erect, unbranched, base slightly woody, with many leaf scars. Leaves alternate, closely spaced; petiole 1–1.5 mm; leaf blade elliptic, 2–2.5 × 0.5–1 cm, herbaceous, both surfaces glabrous, base cuneate, rarely obtuse-rounded, margin slightly revolute, apex obtuse or acute; midrib conspicuous; lateral veins 3–5 pairs, proximal pair usually longer, sometimes visible on both surfaces. Inflorescences terminal, spicate, at first short but later elongated, 3–7 cm. Flower fragrant. Calyx reddish; tube cylindric, 8–10 mm, slender, exterior glabrous; lobes 4, broadly lanceolate, 5–6 × 2.5–3 mm, apex acuminate. Stamens 8, the 2 whorls inserted 1–1.5 mm apart, upper whorl in throat; filaments short; anthers oblong, (0.8–)1.5 mm, base and apex retuse; upper ones slightly exserted from calyx tube. Disk oblique, entire, enclosing stipe of ovary. Ovary ellipsoid, stipitate, pubescent distally; style ca. 1 mm; stigma globose. Drupe dark green, obconic, glabrous, enclosed in persistent calyx. Fl. May–Jun, fr. Jul–Aug.

Sunny and dry slopes, sandy places. Xinjiang [Russia (Siberia); C Asia].


天山假狼毒** tian shan jia lang du


Herbs perennial, 15–30 cm tall. Rhizome woody, yellowish brown or light brown. Stems 10–20, erect, unbranched, herbaceous or slightly woody near base, glabrous; leaf scars green, small. Leaves alternate; petiole ca. 1 mm; leaf blade oblong-elliptic to narrowly elliptic, 1.4–2 × 0.3–0.5 cm, herbaceous, both surfaces glabrous, base broadly cuneate, margin slightly revolute or not, sparsely white ciliate, apex acute or slightly acuminate; midrib conspicuous, flattened on both surfaces or raised abaxially; lateral veins 3–5 pairs, second proximal pair usually longer, ± visible on both surfaces. Inflorescences terminal, capitate or shortly racemose, to 1 cm, 15–20-flowered. Pedicel short, 1–2 mm, articulate at apex, glabrous. Calyx reddish; tube funnel-shaped-cylindric, 9–12 mm, articulate, contracted above ovary after anthesis, exterior glabrous; lobes 4, narrowly ovate or ovate-lanceolate, 5–7 × 1.5–2.2 mm, apex obtuse. Stamens 8, upper whorl on and slightly below throat; filaments short; anthers oblong, ca. 1 mm, base and apex retuse. Disk annular, oblique, enclosing base of ovary, margin usually toothed. Ovary ellipsoid, ca. 1.3 mm, brown pilose above middle or at apex, stipitate; style filiform, short; stigma globose. Drupe green, ellipsoid, enclosed in persistent calyx. Fl. Jun, fr. Aug.

Sunny and dry slopes, sandy places; 1700–2000 m. Xinjiang (Zhaosu) [C Asia].