

1. HELIANTHEMUM Miller, Gard. Dict. Abr., ed. 4. 1754.

半日花属 ban ri hua shu

Shrubs or subshrubs, rarely perennial or annual herbs. Leaves opposite or upper ones alternate, stipulate or estipulate. Flowers solitary or inflorescences cymose, racemose, corymbose, or headlike, sometimes paniculate, few- to many-flowered. Sepals 5; outer 2 ca. 1/2 size of inner 3; inner 3 subequal, 3–6-veined, accrescent in fruit. Petals 5, yellow, orange-yellow, or pink. Styles filiform; stigmas large, capitate. Capsule 3-angled, 3-valved, 1-loculed or imperfectly 3-loculed. Seeds many.

About 110 species: N Africa, SW Asia, and Europe, mostly in the Mediterranean region, extending to C Asia, also in North and South America; one species in China.

1. *Helianthemum songaricum* Schrenk in Fischer & C. A. Meyer, Enum. Pl. Nov. 1: 94. 1841.

半日花 ban ri hua

Helianthemum ordosicum Y. Z. Zhao et al.

Shrubs dwarf, densely branched, cushionlike, 5–12 cm tall. Old branches brown; branchlets opposite or nearly opposite, tightly appressed white pubescent when young, glabrescent, apex spinose. Leaves opposite; stipules subulate or linear-lanceolate, ca. 0.8 mm, longer than petiole, apex acute; petiole short to almost absent; leaf blade simple, lanceolate or narrowly ovate, 5–7(–10) × 1–3 mm, leathery, both surfaces white puberulous, margin entire, often revolute; midrib slightly impressed. Flowers solitary at tips of branches, 1–1.2 cm in diam.; pedicel 0.6–1 cm, white villous. Sepals 5, unequal, abaxially densely white puberulous; outer 2 sepals linear, ca. 2 mm; inner 3 sepals ovate, 5–7 mm, abaxially 3-ridged. Petals yellow or orange-yellow, obovate, ca. 8 mm, base cuneate. Stamens ca. 1/2 as long as petals; anthers yellow. Ovary ca. 1.5 mm, densely puberulous; style ca. 5 mm. Capsule ovoid, 5–8 mm, puberulous. Seeds brown, ovoid, ca. 3 mm, angled, reticulate-striate, sometimes rugose, apex acuminate.

Rocky hills and slopes in steppe-desert regions; 1000–1400 m. Gansu, Nei Mongol, Xinjiang [C Asia].

Helianthemum songaricum is easily distinguished from other C Asian species by the spine-tipped branches and stipulate leaves. It was listed as rare by Zhou (in Fu & Jin, China Pl. Red Data Book 1: 218–219. 1992).

