

## 2. HYBANTHUS Jacquin, Enum. Syst. Pl. 2, 17. 1760, nom. cons.

鼠鞭草属 shu bian cao shu

Small shrubs [or herbs]. Leaves alternate, ± sessile; stipules in pairs, small; leaf blade narrowly elliptic to almost needle-shaped, margin entire to incised. Flowers axillary, bisexual, zygomorphic, solitary, with a pair of bracteoles at joint of peduncle and pedicel. Sepals persistent, ± triangular, nearly equal, margin entire, without appendages at base. Petals unequal, posterior ones straight and small, anterior one extended into a lip, with a short spur at base. Stamens connivent around gynoecium; filaments free, short; anthers 2-celled, with a distinct membranous connective appendage, lower two with a patent gland at base. Ovary: ovules numerous, on 3 parietal placentas; style simple, geniculate at base, conspicuously clavate, with an anterior opening stigmatic cavity. Fruit a 3-valved capsule, subglobose, valves leathery. Seeds numerous, ellipsoid, with longitudinal ribs.

About 150 species: chiefly in tropical and subtropical regions of the world; one species in China.

**1. Hybanthus enneaspermus** (Linnaeus) F. Mueller, Fragm. 10: 81. 1876.

鼠鞭草 shu bian cao

*Viola enneasperma* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 937. 1753; *Hybanthus suffruticosus* (Linnaeus) Baillon; *Ionidium enneaspermum* (Linnaeus) Ventenat; *I. suffruticosum* (Linnaeus) Gingins; *V. suffruticosa* Linnaeus.

Subshrubs, with a long, slender tap root. Stems numerous, procumbent, usually 10–20 cm tall, rarely to 40 cm. Young branches canaliculate, ± puberulous. Leaves alternate, sessile or subsessile; stipules greenish, triangular or subulate, very small, ciliate; leaf blade linear-lanceolate, linear-ob lanceolate, or narrowly spatulate, unequal in size, 0.5–3.5 × 0.2–0.5 cm, midvein slightly raised abaxially, lateral veins inconspicuous, base cuneate, decurrent, margin entire, sparsely 1–3-serrulate, apex acute, rarely acuminate, mucronulate. Flowers solitary in leaf axils,

blue-purple; pedicels not exceeding leaves, 2-bracteolate near flower; bracteoles opposite, lanceolate or subtriangular, membranous, ciliate. Sepals subequal, lanceolate, 2–3 mm, margin membranous, white, ciliate. Petals irregular, upper 2 smallest, oblong, apex acute, lateral 2 ovate-orbicular, apex slightly recurved, lower 1 largest, 6–7 mm, ca. 2 × as large as others, anterior half broadest, 2 lateral sides incurved, more deeply colored, shortly spurred. Stamens free; filaments short, 2 with curved calcarlike (spurlike) appendages; anthers longitudinally dehiscent, appendages at top of connectives yellow-brown, membranous. Ovary subglobose; styles clavate, base dilated, slightly curved in upper narrow part; stigmas slightly incurved. Capsule pendulous, globose. Seeds creamy-yellow, ovoid-orbicular, conspicuously longitudinally striate. Fl. Jun–Jul, fr. Jul–Aug.  $2n = 16^*$ .

Thickets along river banks, open grasslands, sandy places near seashores; below 500 m. S Guangdong, Hainan, S Taiwan [tropical Africa, tropical Asia, Australia].

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