

5. OENOTHERA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 346. 1753.

月见草属 yue jian cao shu

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Annual, biennial or perennial herbs, caulescent or acaulescent, with a taproot or fibrous roots, occasionally with rhizomes or shoots arising from spreading lateral roots. Leaves alternate or in a basal rosette that often is absent in mature plants, entire, toothed to pinnatifid; stipules absent. Flowers perfect, actinomorphic, in axils of upper leaves, when numerous forming terminal leafy spikes, racemes, or corymbs, opening near sunset or near sunrise. Floral tube usually well developed, cylindric and somewhat flared near mouth, deciduous soon after anthesis. Sepals 4, green or yellowish, often tinged or striped red or purple. Petals 4, yellow, purple, pink, or white. Stamens 8; anthers versatile; pollen shed singly. Ovary with 4 locules; ovules numerous; stigma divided into 4 linear lobes, receptive all around, and subtended by a ± conspicuous ringlike indusium in early development, but often obscured when receptive. Fruit a dehiscent capsule [rarely indehiscent outside of China], straight or curved, terete to 4-angled or winged, sessile, occasionally pedicellate, or basal portion sterile and stipelike. Seeds numerous, in 1 or 2(or 3) rows or in clusters in each of 4 locules. $2n = 14, 28, 42, 56$.

One hundred and twenty-one species: open, often disturbed habitats in temperate to subtropical areas of North, Central, and South America, with the center of diversity in SW North America; ten species (all naturalized within the past 200 years) in China.

Oenothera is currently divided into 15 sections, only three of which are represented in China. An evolutionary phenomenon that has occurred repeatedly in *Oenothera* (52 species) and several other genera of tribe Onagreae is permanent translocation heterozygosity, a peculiar, specialized genetic system based on heterozygosity for successive chromosomal translocations and manifested by autogamy and formation of a ring of 14 chromosomes at meiotic metaphase I (for reviews see Cleland, *Oenothera* Cytogenetics and Evolution. 1972; Holsinger and Ellstrand, *Amer. Naturalist* 124: 48–71. 1984). Permanent translocation heterozygote individuals breed true for their series of reciprocal translocations and are maintained by either balanced lethals or selective fertilization. These plants are essentially clonal. Many species of *Oenothera* that have become naturalized outside their natural range are permanent translocation heterozygotes, as noted in their descriptions.

Several ornamental species of *Oenothera* are known only from cultivation in China, often in Beijing, Kunming, or other botanical gardens. For example, *O. macrocarpa* Nuttall subsp. *macrocarpa* (*O. sect. Megapterium* (Spach) Endlicher) is native to the Great Plains region of C North America but has never become naturalized outside of its indigenous distribution because it is a self-incompatible outcrosser with rather specific habitat requirements. It can be distinguished by its large, yellow corollas (up to 14 cm in diam. at anthesis), 4-winged capsules (wings up to 3.4 cm wide), floral tube (7.8–)9.5–11.5(–14) cm, and coarsely rugose, distally winged seeds. A second species, *O. acaulis* Cavanilles (*O. sect. Lavauxia* (Spach) Endlicher, *O. subsect. Australis* W. L. Wagner & Dietrich), likewise known only from cultivation in China, is native to S South America and is characterized by white petals and capsules winged in the distal half.

- 1a. Petals white, pink, or purple; capsules clavate or obovoid, valves sharply angled, winged or ridged, proximally narrowed into a tapering, sterile stipe; seeds in indistinct rows or clusters in each locule.
- 2a. Petals 16–38 mm, white, fading to rose-purple; sepals 16–32 mm; leaf margin weakly serrate to sinuate-pinnatifid, often with large terminal lobe; pollen ca. 90+% fertile 9. *O. tetraptera*
- 2b. Petals 5–12 mm, pink to rose purple; sepals 5–10 mm; leaf margin subentire to coarsely dentate, sometimes sinuate-pinnatifid at leaf base; pollen ca. 50% fertile 10. *O. rosea*
- 1b. Petals yellow, at least before fading; capsules lanceoloid or cylindric, sometimes slightly enlarged toward apex, valves acute or obtuse to rounded, not narrowed toward base into a sterile stipe; seeds in two rows in each locule.
- 3a. Capsules cylindric and ± slightly enlarged toward apex; erect to procumbent annual or short-lived perennial herbs, 5–80(–100) cm tall, rarely biennial; flowers few in upper axils; seeds ellipsoid, brown to dark brown.
- 4a. Floral tube 25–50 mm; sepals 13–33 mm; petals 20–45 mm; stigma exserted beyond anthers at anthesis; pollen ca. 90+% fertile; flowers primarily outcrossing 7. *O. drummondii*
- 4b. Floral tube 12–35 mm; sepals 5–25 mm; petals 5–25(–35) mm; stigma surrounded by anthers at anthesis; pollen ca. 50% fertile; flowers primarily self-pollinating.
- 5a. Leaf margin deeply lobed to dentate; sepals 5–15 mm; petals 5–22 mm, yellow to pale yellow; capsule cylindric throughout 6. *O. laciniata*
- 5b. Leaf margin serrate and usually somewhat undulate; sepals 12–25 mm; petals 15–25(–35) mm, yellow, often with basal red spot; capsule cylindric, enlarged toward apex 8. *O. stricta*
- 3b. Capsules lanceoloid; coarse erect biennial herbs (10–)30–200 cm tall; flowers numerous in generally dense spikes; seeds irregularly angled, dark brown to black.
- 6a. Floral tube 35–50 mm; stigma elevated above anthers at anthesis, flowers mostly outcrossed; petals 35–50 mm; leaf surface often crinkled 3. *O. glazioviana*
- 6b. Floral tube 15–40 mm; stigma surrounded by anthers at anthesis, flowers mostly self-pollinating; petals 7–25(–30) mm; leaf surface smooth.
- 7a. Free sepal tips 0.5–3 mm, apical; dry capsules grayish green or dull green; apex of inflorescence erect.
- 8a. Leaves grayish green, with prominent pale green veins; sepals 9–18 mm; stems ± exclusively

- densely strigillose; inflorescence dense, apex truncate from widely spreading bracts 1. *O. villosa*
 8b. Leaves pale green, with inconspicuous veins; sepals 12–22(–28) mm; stems densely or sparsely strigillose and villous; inflorescence relatively open, apex obtuse from erect to slightly spreading bracts 2. *O. biennis*
 7b. Free sepal tips 0.5–5 mm, distinctly subapical; dry capsules rusty brown to black; apex of inflorescence usually curved or sigmoid.
 9a. Stems 10–60 cm tall, erect or procumbent, lower portions conspicuously pubescent; leaves grayish green, with inconspicuous veins; capsules dark to dull green, sometimes reddish, drying rusty brown 4. *O. oakesiana*
 9b. Stems 30–150 mm tall, erect, lower portions inconspicuously pubescent; leaves bright green, with white or red veins; capsules dark green, often drying black 5. *O. parviflora*

1. *Oenothera villosa* Thunberg, Prodr. Fl. Cap. 75. 1794.

长毛月见草 chang mao yue jian cao

Herbs erect, biennial, with taproot and basal rosette. Stems 50–200 cm tall, simple or sparsely branched, exclusively densely strigillose, or sometimes with few subappressed or spreading pustulate-based hairs or few glandular hairs on floral tube. Leaves gray-green, with prominent pale or red veins, especially abaxially, sessile; rosette blade 10–30 × 1.2–4(–5) cm; cauline blade narrowly lanceolate or oblanceolate to elliptic, 5–20 × 1–2.5(–4) cm, base obtuse to attenuate, margin conspicuously dentate, apex acute. Inflorescence a dense unbranched spike. Flowers open near sunset; floral tube 2.3–4.4 cm. Sepals 9–18 mm, with free tips 0.5–3 mm, apical, erect. Petals yellow to pale yellow, 7–20 mm. Anthers 4–10 mm; pollen ca. 50% fertile. Ovary densely strigillose; stigma surrounded by anthers. Capsules grayish green, lanceoloid, 2–4.3 cm, sessile. Seeds in two rows per locule, brown to nearly black, 1–2 mm, angled, irregularly pitted. Fl. Jul–Sep, fr. Aug–Oct. $2n = 14$, permanent translocation heterozygote; self-compatible, autogamous, often cleistogamous.

Open disturbed sites, seasonally moist but often somewhat dryer sites than *O. biennis* and *O. parviflora*; near sea level to 1200 m. Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning [native to EC North America; naturalized in Japan, Russia (Far East), and widely in S Africa, Asia, Europe, and S South America].

2. *Oenothera biennis* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 346. 1753.

月见草 yue jian cao

Oenothera muricata Linnaeus; *O. suaveolens* Desfontaines; *Onagra biennis* (Linnaeus) Scopoli; *O. muricata* (Linnaeus) Moench.

Herbs erect, biennial, with basal rosette. Stems 30–200 cm tall, simple or sparsely branched, densely to very sparsely strigillose and with longer spreading and usually pustulate-based hairs, inflorescence often also glandular puberulous. Leaves green or pale green, with inconspicuous veins, sessile or shortly petiolate; rosette blade 10–30 × 2–5 cm; cauline blade narrowly oblanceolate to elliptic, 5–22 × (1–)1.5–5(–6) cm, base acute to attenuate, margin dentate to subentire, often lobed near base, apex acute. Inflorescence a dense mostly unbranched spike. Flowers open near sunset; floral tube (2–)2.5–4 cm. Sepals 1.2–2.2(–2.8) cm, with free tips 1.5–3 mm, erect. Petals yellow, fading to orange, 1.2–2.5(–3) cm. Anthers 3–6(–9) mm; pollen ca. 50% fertile. Ovary densely glandular puberulous and sparsely

villous or with very sparse pustulate-based hairs, sometimes only densely strigillose; stigma surrounded by anthers. Capsules green, narrowly lanceoloid to lanceoloid, 2–4 cm, sessile. Seeds in two rows per locule, brown to nearly black, 1.1–2 mm, irregularly pitted. Fl. Jul–Oct, fr. Jul–Nov. $2n = 14$, permanent translocation heterozygote; self-compatible, autogamous.

Common in open, disturbed areas; near sea level to 1500 m. Anhui, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jilin, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan [Bhutan, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Russia; native to E North America; widely naturalized in SW Asia, Europe, Pacific islands (New Zealand), and S South America].

The seeds of this species contain gamma linolenic acid (GLA), an anti-inflammatory compound of potential therapeutic use for cardiovascular disorders, arthritis, and other human diseases. The cultivation of these plants as a source of GLA has increased recently, and the species has become naturalized widely in China.

3. *Oenothera glazioviana* Micheli in Martius, Fl. Bras. 13(2): 178. 1875.

黄花月见草 huang hua yue jian cao

Oenothera erythrosepala (Borbás) Borbás; *Onagra erythrosepala* Borbás.

Herbs erect, biennial to short-lived perennial, with basal rosette. Stems 50–150 cm tall, usually branched throughout, densely to very sparsely strigillose, with long suberect red pustulate-based hairs, and glandular hairs on inflorescence. Leaves dark to bright green, with inconspicuous veins, surface often crinkled, villous to strigillose, sessile to shortly petiolate; rosette blade 13–30 × 3–5 cm; cauline blade narrowly elliptic to lanceolate or oblanceolate, 5–15 × 2.5–4 cm, base attenuate to narrowly cuneate, margin remotely dentate, usually undulate toward base, apex acute to subobtusate. Inflorescence a dense unbranched spike. Flowers open near sunset; floral tube 3.5–5 cm. Sepals 2.8–4.5 cm, with free tips 5–8 mm, apical, erect or spreading. Petals yellow, fading to reddish orange, 3.5–5 cm. Anthers 1–1.2 cm; pollen ca. 50% fertile. Ovary densely to moderately villous, with long red pustulate-based hairs and dense glandular hairs; stigma elevated above anthers. Capsules green, narrowly lanceoloid, 2–3.5 cm, sessile. Seeds in two rows per locule, brown to dark brown, 1.3–2 mm, irregularly pitted, up to ca. 50% abortive. Fl. Jul–Sep(–Oct), fr. Aug–Oct. $2n = 14$, permanent translocation heterozygote; self-compatible, usually outcrossing.

Open disturbed sites such as roadsides, gardens, fallow fields, and along railroad tracks; near sea level to 800 m. Anhui, Guizhou, Hebei, Henan, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Afghanistan, India, Japan, Pakistan, Russia; Africa, SW Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America, Pacific islands (New Zealand)].

Oenothera glazioviana is not a native plant to any area in the usual sense, having originated via hybridization between two cultivated or naturalized species in a garden in Europe. It was introduced into the horticultural trade as early as 1860, grown for its particularly large, attractive flowers, and has become very widely naturalized.

4. *Oenothera oakesiana* (A. Gray) J. W. Robbins ex S. Watson & Coulter, Manual, ed. 6, 190. 1890.

曲序月见草 qu xu yue jian cao

Oenothera biennis Linnaeus var. *oakesiana* A. Gray, Manual, ed. 5, 190. 1867.

Herbs erect to procumbent, biennial, with taproot and basal rosette. Stems 10–60 cm tall, simple or branched, densely strigillose throughout, mixed with long erect hairs and/or suberect red pustulate-based hairs, and often glandular hairs on inflorescence. Leaves grayish green, with inconspicuous veins, densely strigillose, sessile or shortly petiolate; rosette blade 8–30 × 0.5–3 cm; cauline blade very narrowly oblanceolate to narrowly elliptic, 3.5–20 × 0.5–2.7 cm, base narrowly cuneate to attenuate, margin remotely dentate to subentire, apex acute to narrowly so. Inflorescence a dense unbranched spike, nodding or sigmoid. Flowers open near sunset; floral tube 1.5–4 cm. Sepals 9–17 mm, with free tips 2.5–4 mm, subapical, erect or spreading. Petals yellow, fading to reddish orange, 7–20 mm. Anthers 3–7 mm; pollen ca. 50% fertile. Ovary densely strigillose, with spreading and glandular hairs mixed; stigma surrounded by anthers. Capsules green, drying rusty brown, narrowly lanceoloid, 1.5–4 cm, sessile. Seeds in (1 or)2 rows per locule, dark brown to nearly black, 1.1–1.2 mm, irregularly pitted. Fl. Jul–Sep(–Oct), fr. Aug–Oct. $2n = 14$, permanent translocation heterozygote; self-compatible, usually autogamous.

Sandy coastal meadows and dunes or on gravelly sites along rivers, also in disturbed sites such as roadsides; near sea level to 500 m. Fujian [native to E North America, naturalized in Europe].

This species is known only from Fujian Province in China, and has not been reported as naturalized elsewhere in Asia.

5. *Oenothera parviflora* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 2: 998. 1759.

小花月见草 xiao hua yue jian cao

Oenothera biennis Linnaeus var. *parviflora* (Linnaeus) Torrey & A. Gray.

Herbs erect, biennial, with taproot and basal rosette. Stems 30–150 cm tall, simple or sparsely branched, sparsely strigillose (sometimes only lower parts) mixed with glandular and long spreading pustulate-based hairs. Leaves bright green, with white or red veins, strigillose to subglabrous, sessile to shortly petiolate; rosette blade 10–30 × 1–4 cm; cauline blade lanceolate to narrowly elliptic or narrowly oblanceolate, 4–18 × 1–3

cm, base attenuate, margin dentate, apex acute. Inflorescence a dense simple or sparsely branched spike, apex often nodding or curved. Flowers open near sunset; floral tube 2.2–4 cm. Sepals 7–17 mm, with free tips 0.5–5 mm, ± subapical. Petals yellow to pale yellow, fading to orange or dull yellow, 8–15(–20) mm. Anthers 3.5–6 mm; pollen ca. 50% fertile. Ovary strigillose, with some spreading, pustulate-based, and/or glandular hairs; stigma surrounded by anthers. Capsules dark green, drying nearly black, narrowly lanceoloid to lanceoloid, 2–4 cm, sessile. Seeds in two rows per locule, brown to dark brown, 1.1–1.8 mm, irregularly pitted. Fl. Jul–Sep(–Oct), fr. Aug–Oct. $2n = 14$, permanent translocation heterozygote; self-compatible, autogamous.

Open, usually disturbed sites, roadside ditches; near sea level to 1000 m. Hebei, Liaoning [Japan; native to E North America; widely naturalized in S Africa, Europe, and Pacific islands (New Zealand)].

6. *Oenothera laciniata* Hill, Veg. Syst. 12, App.: 64. 1767.

裂叶月见草 lie ye yue jian cao

Raimannia laciniata (Hill) Rose ex Britton & A. Brown.

Herbs erect to procumbent, annual or short-lived perennial, usually with basal rosette. Stems 5–50(–100) cm tall, simple or branched, strigillose and often villous, often with glandular hairs on inflorescence. Leaves green, with inconspicuous veins, strigillose and villous, often also glandular puberulous, sessile to shortly petiolate; rosette blade 4–15 × 1–3 cm; cauline blade narrowly oblanceolate to lanceolate or narrowly elliptic, 2–10 × 0.5–3.5 cm, base narrowly cuneate, margin deeply lobed to dentate, apex acute. Inflorescence a lax open spike. Flowers open near sunset, one per stem per day; floral tube 1.2–3.5 cm, upcurved in bud. Sepals 5–15 mm, with free tips 0.3–3 mm, apical, spreading. Petals yellow to pale yellow, fading to orange, 5–22 mm. Anthers 2–6 mm; pollen ca. 50% fertile. Ovary strigillose, with spreading and sometimes a few glandular hairs; stigma surrounded by anthers. Capsules cylindrical, 2–5 cm, sessile. Seeds in two rows per locule, brown to dark brown, ellipsoid to suborbicular, 0.9–1.8 mm, pitted. Fl. Apr–Sep(–Oct), fr. May–Oct. $2n = 14$, permanent translocation heterozygote; self-compatible, autogamous.

Open, disturbed, usually sandy sites, often along coastal areas; near sea level to 400 m. Fujian, Taiwan [Japan; native to E North America, naturalized in S Africa, Australia, Central America, Europe, and South America].

7. *Oenothera drummondii* Hooker, Bot. Mag. 61: t. 3361. 1834.

海滨月见草 hai bin yue jian cao

Oenothera littoralis Schlechtendal.

Herbs erect to procumbent, annual to perennial, usually without rosette, often with decumbent lateral branches terminating in a rosette. Stems 10–50 cm tall, stiff, simple or branched, densely strigillose, sometimes also villous, glandular puberulous on inflorescence. Leaves grayish green, with inconspicuous veins, densely strigillose, sometimes also glandular puberulous, sessile above, petioles 2–12 mm below; basal blade

5–14 × 1–2 cm; cauline blade narrowly oblanceolate or elliptic to broadly obovate, 1–8 × 0.5–2.5 cm, base attenuate, margin shallowly dentate to subentire, rarely lyrate, apex acute to rounded. Inflorescence a lax open spike. Flowers open near sunset, one per stem per day; floral tube 2.5–5 cm, upcurved in bud. Sepals 1.3–3.3 cm, with free tips 1–3 mm, apical, erect and appressed. Petals yellow, 2–4.5 cm. Anthers 4–12 mm; pollen 90%–100% fertile. Ovary densely strigillose to villous, sometimes also glandular puberulous; stigma exserted above anthers. Capsules cylindrical, 2.5–5.5 cm, sessile. Seeds in two rows per locule, brown with darker flecks, ellipsoid to suborbicular, 1.1–1.7 mm, pitted. Fl. May–Nov, fr. Jun–Dec. $2n = 14$; self-compatible, modally outcrossing.

Coastal dunes and other sandy, often disturbed areas; near sea level to 400 m. Fujian, Guangdong [North America: native to coastal areas of SE United States and NE Mexico, naturalized in Africa, SW Asia, Australia, Europe, and South America].

8. *Oenothera stricta* Ledebour ex Link, Enum. Pl. Hort. Berol. 1: 377. 1821.

待宵草 dai xiao cao

Herbs erect or rarely decumbent, annual or biennial, often with basal rosette. Stems 25–100 cm tall, simple or barely branched, strigillose, often with spreading and glandular hairs. Leaves green, with inconspicuous veins, strigillose, sessile to shortly petiolate; rosette leaves 10–25 × 0.8–2.5 cm; cauline leaves very narrowly elliptic to lanceolate or oblanceolate, 6–18 × 0.6–2.5 cm, base attenuate, rounded, or cordate, margin serrate and usually somewhat undulate, apex acute. Inflorescence a lax open simple or branched spike. Flowers open near sunset, one or several per day; floral tube 2–3.5 cm, erect in bud. Sepals 1.2–2.5 cm, with free tips 1–3 mm, erect. Petals yellow, often with a red spot at base, fading to reddish orange, 1.5–2.5(–3.5) cm. Anthers 7–11 mm; pollen ca. 50% fertile. Ovary densely strigillose, with some longer spreading or glandular hairs; stigma surrounded by anthers. Capsules cylindrical, somewhat enlarged toward apex, 2–4 cm, sessile. Seeds in two rows per locule, brown, ellipsoid, 1.4–1.8 mm, inconspicuously pitted. Fl. May–Nov, fr. Jun–Nov. $2n = 14$, permanent translocation heterozygote; self-compatible, mostly autogamous.

Moist, disturbed habitats near streams, roadside ditches, usually escaped from cultivation; 600–2500 m. Fujian, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hubei, Jiangxi, Shaanxi, Shandong, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan [India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka; native to South America (Chile and Argentina)]; naturalized in Africa, SW Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and Pacific islands].

This species, sometimes cultivated for its relatively large, attractive flowers, often becomes naturalized in China and elsewhere. Many specimens from China have been determined as *Oenothera odorata* Jacquin; however, that species, also native to S South America but rarely, if ever, naturalized elsewhere, differs from *O. stricta* by having narrower leaves, larger petals that lack a red spot at the base, shorter floral tubes, and bracts mostly longer than the capsules they subtend.

9. *Oenothera tetraptera* Cavanilles, Icon. 3: 40. 1796.

四翅月见草 si chi yue jian cao

Herbs decumbent to ascending, annual or short-lived per-

ennial, clumped to suffrutescent. Stems 15–50 cm tall, simple or branched, strigillose, often also moderately villous. Leaves green, with inconspicuous veins, strigillose, subsessile above, petioles 2–8 mm below; basal blade elliptic to narrowly obovate, 3–10 × 1–3 cm; cauline blade oblanceolate to obovate or elliptic-lanceolate, narrower above, 2–5 × 0.6–2.5 cm, base attenuate, margin weakly serrate to sinuate-pinnatifid, often with a large terminal lobe, apex acute to subobtuse. Inflorescence a lax open simple or branched raceme. Flowers open near sunset; floral tube 1–2.9 cm. Sepals 1.6–3.2 cm, with free tips 0.5–3.5 mm. Petals white, fading to rose-purple, 1.6–3.8 cm. Anthers 4–10 mm; pollen ca. 90+% fertile. Ovary densely strigillose and villous; stigma exserted above anthers. Capsule clavate to obovoid, 7.5–18 mm, valves with wings 2–3 mm wide, attenuate to slender sterile stipe (pedicel) 5–37 mm. Seeds clustered in each locule, light brown, obovoid, 1–1.5 mm, papillose. Fl. May–Aug, fr. Jun–Oct. $2n = 14$; self-compatible, mostly outcrossing.

Moist disturbed places, mostly along roads and near gardens, where it is sometimes cultivated; 300–2200 m. Guizhou, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan [native to S North America (including Mexico); naturalized in Sri Lanka, SW Asia, Australia, Central America, Europe, and N South America].

10. *Oenothera rosea* L'Héritier ex Aiton, Hort. Kew. 2: 3. 1789.

粉花月见草 fen hua yue jian cao

Herbs ascending to decumbent, perennial, rhizomatous and sometimes suffrutescent from woody caudex, rarely with basal rosette. Stems 7–65 cm, simple or branched, strigillose, sometimes with longer spreading hairs. Leaves green, with inconspicuous veins, glabrous to sparsely strigillose; petioles 3–20 mm; basal blade 2–5 × 0.5–2 cm; cauline blade elliptic to oblanceolate or oblong-ovate, 1–6 × 0.4–2.5 cm, base attenuate, margin subentire to coarsely dentate, sometimes sinuate-pinnatifid at leaf base, apex acute to obtuse. Inflorescence a lax open simple raceme. Flowers open near sunrise; floral tube 4–10 mm. Sepals 5–10 mm, with free tips 0.4–1 mm. Petals pink to rose-purple, 5–12 mm. Anthers 2–3.5 mm; pollen ca. 50% fertile. Ovary usually densely strigillose; stigma surrounded by anthers. Capsules clavate or narrowly obovoid, 4–12 mm, valves angled or weakly winged, attenuate to slender sterile stipe (pedicel) 5–20 mm. Seeds in several indistinct rows per locule, brown with dark spot at each end, obovoid, 0.5–1.2 mm, finely papillose. Fl. May–Nov, fr. Jun–Dec. $2n = 14$, permanent translocation heterozygote; self-compatible, autogamous.

Disturbed habitats along creeks and in low weedy places; 1000–2000 m. Guizhou, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Japan; native to S North America and N South America, frequently cultivated and naturalized in SW Asia, Australia, Europe, and South America].

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