

**5. PEMPHIS** J. R. Forster & G. Forster, Char. Gen. Pl. 34. 1775.

水芫花属 shui yuan hua shu

Qin Haining (覃海宁); Shirley Graham

Shrubs to densely branched, small trees, maritime; all parts densely covered by grayish silky trichomes. Leaves opposite, sessile or subsessile. Flowers axillary, solitary or paired, 6-merous, actinomorphic, distylous. Floral tube turbinate, 12-ribbed; sepals short; epicalyx segments present, ca. 1/2 as long as or equaling sepals. Petals white or pale pink. Stamens 12, scarcely biserrate, inserted somewhat above base of floral tube, 6 exserted in short-styled flowers, all included in long-styled flowers. Ovary vestigially 3- or 4-locular, appearing 1-loculed with free, central placentation. Capsule dry, circumscissile, slightly exserted at maturity. Seeds irregularly obpyramidal, wingless.

One species: E Africa west across Indian Ocean to Marshall Islands in Pacific Ocean, north to China (Taiwan) and Japan (Ryukyu Islands).

*Pemphis* is now regarded as unispecific. See Graham et al., *Koehneria*, a new genus of Lythraceae from Madagascar (Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 73: 788–809. 1986).

**1. Pemphis acidula** J. R. Forster & G. Forster, Char. Gen. Pl.  
34. 1775.

水芫花 shui yuan hua

Shrubs to densely branched, spreading trees, maritime, small, to 11 m tall, but often ca. 1 m. Stems and branchlets ascending; branchlets, young leaves, and inflorescences densely silky grayish white strigose. Leaves opposite, sessile or subsessile; petiole to 2 mm; leaf blade narrowly elliptic to lanceolate, 1–3 cm × 5–15 mm, thick, succulent, base attenuate, apex often terminating in a minute circular hydathode. Flowers solitary or paired, axillary, 6-merous, actinomorphic, heteromorphic, distylous; pedicel 5–13 mm. Floral tube 4–5 mm, turbinate, 12-ribbed, thick walled, densely grayish white strigose; sepals short, ca. 1/4 as long as floral tube; epicalyx segments equaling sepals or ca. 1/2 as long. Petals 6, white or pale pink, obovate to suborbicular, 3–5 mm. Stamens 12, scarcely biserrate, 6 exserted in short-styled thrum flowers, all included in long-styled pin flowers. Ovary vestigially 3- or 4-loculed, appearing 1-loculed with free central placentation at maturity; ovules ascending on short placenta; style long-exserted in pin flowers, included in thrum flowers; stigma capitate. Capsules dry, circumscissile, obovoid, ca. 6 mm, slightly exserted at maturity. Seeds ca. 20, irregularly obpyramidal, not winged, 2–3 mm.  $2n = 32$ .

Tropical sandy shores, inlets in mangrove forests. S Taiwan [E Africa west across Indian Ocean to Marshall Islands in Pacific Ocean, north to Japan (Ryukyu Islands)].

