

6. PEPLIS Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 332. 1753.

葶艾属 bi ai shu

Qin Haining (覃海宁); Shirley Graham

Herbs, annual, decumbent or creeping, adventitiously rooting at nodes, glabrous. Stem \pm 4-angled. Leaves opposite or alternate, sessile. Flowers solitary or infrequently paired, sessile or subsessile, 6-merous, actinomorphic. Floral tube broadly campanulate, broader than long, thinly membranous, 8–12-veined; sepals short; epicalyx segments linear, long. Petals 6 or absent, pale, small, caducous. Stamens (2–)6, deeply inserted. Ovary sessile, \pm globose, incompletely 2-loculed; style short; stigma capitate. Capsule dry, thin walled, splitting irregularly. Seeds numerous, obovoid, convex-concave, small.

One to three species, arguably distinct from *Lythrum*: mainly in Europe; one species in China.

1. *Peplis alternifolia* M. Bieberstein, Fl. Taur.-Caucas. 3: 277. 1819.

葶艾 bi ai

Lythrum volgense D. A. Webb.

Herbs, delicate, erect or decumbent, to 12 cm, spreading.

Leaves alternate, linear or narrowly spatulate, 3–14 \times 0.3–3 mm, apex mucronate or slightly obtuse. Flowers 6-merous; floral tube 1–1.5 mm; epicalyx segments linear, shorter than to as long as sepals. Stamens 2, inserted at base of calyx tube. Seeds to 1 mm. $2n = 10$.

Highlands. Xinjiang [C Asia; Europe].

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