14. SARCOPYRAMIS Wallich, Tent. Fl. Napal. 32. 1824.

肉穗草属  rou sui cao shu

Herbs. Stems erect or creeping, 4-sided. Leaves petiolate; leaf blade papery to membranous, secondary veins 1 or 2 on each side of midvein, tertiary veins parallel, margin usually serrulate. Inflorescences terminal cymes, nearly capitulate, 3–5-flowered, base 2-bracteate; bracts foliaceous. Pedicel short, 4-sided, usually narrowly winged. Hypanthium cupular to cupular-funnelform, 4-sided, usually winged on angles. Calyx lobes 4, apex usually truncate but tip armed pubescent or a fimbriate membranous disk. Petals 4, pink to purplish red, usually oblique, apex apiculate. Stamens 8, equal in size; anthers obcordate or obcordate-elliptic, dehiscence poricidal; connective base usually decurrent forming a curved spur or bulge. Ovary inferior, 4-celled, apex with a membranous crown. Capsule cup-shaped, 4-sided, 4-poricidal, crown usually exserted from hypanthium. Seeds small, numerous, long obovate, densely papillose tubercululate.

About two species: Bhutan, China, NE India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand; two species (one endemic) in China.

The genus was revised by Hansen (Bot. Tidsskr. 73: 177–184. 1979), who recognized a single species, Sarcopyramis napalensis, without subordinate taxa. In China, however, tiny plants from several collection sites have traditionally been accepted as a separate species (S. bodinieri), and this practice is followed here. Field studies are required to resolve the status of S. napalensis and S. bodinieri.

1a. Leaf blade ovate to elliptic, 1–5 × 0.7–5 cm .........................................................  1. S. bodinieri
1b. Leaf blade broadly ovate, ovate, or rarely sublanceolate, (2–)5–(1–)2.5–4.5 cm ........................................... 2. S. napalensis


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Sarcopyramis bodinieri var. delicata (C. B. Robinson) C. Chen; S. crenata H. L. Li; S. delicata C. B. Robinson; S. napalensis Wallich var. bodinieri (H. Léveillé & Vaniot) H. Léveillé, S. napalensis var. delicata (C. B. Robinson) S. F. Huang & T. C. Huang; S. parvifolia Merrill ex H. L. Li.

Herbs to 5 cm tall, slender, sometimes creeping, stoloniferous, glabrous. Petiole 3–11 mm, narrowly winged, glabrous; leaf blade ovate to elliptic, 1–5 × 0.7–5 cm, papery, abaxially usually purplish red or rarely green and usually glabrous but sometimes sparsely strigose along tertiary veins, adaxially green or purplish green and sparsely strigose, secondary veins 1 or 2 on each side of midvein, base obtuse, rounded, or subcuneate, margin subapand and armed with teeth, apex acute. Inflorescences terminal cymes, 1–5-flowered, with 2–6 bracts at base; peduncle 0.5–3(–4) cm; bracts, foliaceous, obovate, pubescent. Pedicel 1–3 mm, 4-sided, narrowly winged on angles. Hypanthium 3–5 mm, 4-sided, narrowly winged on angles. Calyx lobes rectangular or triangular, forming a right angle with hypanthium or not, abaxially setose or with triangular wings, sometimes their margin setose. Petals purplish red to pink, broadly ovate, oblique, 3–4 mm, apex acute with an apiculate tip. Stamens 1–1.5 mm; anthers yellow, ca. 0.5 mm; connective decurrent, forming a short spur ca. 1/2 length of anther. Ovary urceolate, apex with a membranous crown, crown margin undulate. Capsule whitish green, cup-shaped, 4-sided, membranous crown exserted from hypanthium.

- Dense forests, Tsuga forests (in SE Xizang), grassy areas, trail-sides, valleys, shaded damp places, rock crevices; 300–2800 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Sichuan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Sichuan, SE Xizang, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Bhutan, NE India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand].

2. Sarcopyramis napalensis Wallich, Tent. Fl. Napal. 32. 1824.

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