

7. THYMELAEAE Miller, Gard. Dict. Abr., ed. 4, [1381]. 1754, nom. cons.

欧瑞香属 ou rui xiang shu

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Ligia Fasano.

Herbs annual, subshrubs, or shrubs; upper parts much branched. Branchlets usually tuberculate. Leaves alternate, crowded when young; petiole short or absent; leaf blade herbaceous or leathery. Inflorescence terminal or axillary, 1-flowered or fasciculate, with or without involucre. Flowers bisexual or unisexual, 4-merous. Calyx tube persistent, rarely deciduous, yellow to yellow-green, cylindric, funnel-shaped, or urceolate, contracted at apex of ovary; lobes 4. Petaloid appendages absent. Stamens twice as many as calyx lobes, in two series, included or upper slightly exserted from throat. Disk tiny or absent. Ovary 1-loculed; style terminal or excentric, short; stigma capitate or appressed globose, papillose. Fruit indehiscent, pericarp membranous.

Between 20 and 30 species: N Africa, C and SW Asia, C, E, and S Europe; naturalized in S Australia and North America; one species in China.

1. Thymelaea passerina (Linnaeus) Cosson & Germain, Syn. Fl. Env. Paris, ed. 2, 360. 1859.

欧瑞香 ou rui xiang

Stellera passerina Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 559. 1753; *Ligia passerina* (Linnaeus) Fasano; *Passerina annua* Wikström; *S. annua* Salisbury; *Thymelaea arvensis* Lamarck.

Herbs annual, erect, (10–)40–70 cm tall. Primary root rarely branched, yellow-brown. Stem usually single, erect, branched from above base, green, terete, slender, base slightly woody, glabrous or rarely puberulous. Leaves alternate; petiole very short to nearly absent; leaf blade green on both surfaces, linear-lanceolate or narrowly lanceolate, 0.5–2 × 0.1–0.25 cm, herbaceous, abaxially puberulous, margin not revolute, apex acuminate; midrib inconspicuous, lateral veins obscure. Inflorescence an axillary cluster of 1–5 flowers; bracts 2, leaflike,

green, lanceolate, 2–3 mm, margin proximally sparsely white ciliate, apex acuminate, pubescent. Pedicel short, pubescent. Calyx yellowish green; tube 2–3 mm, exterior whitish pubescent, long white ciliate at base; lobes 4, ovate, 0.5–1 mm, apex obuse. Stamens 8, both whorls inserted above middle of calyx tube; filaments very short; anthers oblong, ca. 0.4 mm, included within calyx tube. Disk absent or reduced. Ovary ovoid, with short, thick hairs at apex; style terminal; stigma capitate, slightly papillate. Drupe green, ovoid, 2–3 mm, indehiscent; enclosed in persistent calyx; epicarp membranous. Fl. May–Aug, fr. Jul–Oct. 2n = 18.

Near farm fields, livestock farms, saline hillsides, dry river beds; 400–1000 m. C and W Xinjiang [Afghanistan, Kashmir, W Pakistan, Russia (W Siberia), Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; N Africa, SW Asia, C, E, and S Europe; naturalized in S Australia and North America].

Thymelaea passerina is considered a noxious weed in the NW United States.

