

37. APIUM Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 264. 1753.

芹属 qin shu

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Herbs, annual or biennial, glabrous. Stem erect, ridged and shallowly fluted. Leaves petiolate, with membranous sheaths; leaf blade pinnate to ternate-pinnately compound. Umbels compound, loose to subcompact; peduncles usually short or abortive; bracts and bracteoles absent; rays few, spreading-ascending or spreading; umbellules few-flowered. Petals white or greenish-yellow, ovate to suborbicular, apex narrow, inflexed. Calyx teeth obsolete. Stylopodium low-conic to depressed; styles short, erect to reflexed. Fruit globose to ellipsoid, rounded at both ends, slightly compressed laterally, mericarp nearly rounded in cross section, commissural face constricted, glabrous; ribs 5, prominent, acute; vittae 1 in each furrow, 2 on commissure. Seed face plane. Carpophore stout, entire or bifid at the apex.

About 20 species: widespread in the temperate zones of both hemispheres; one species (introduced) in China.

1. *Apium graveolens* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 264. 1753.

旱芹 han qin

Apium integrilobum Hayata.

Plants 15–150 cm, strongly fragrant. Basal leaves oblong to obovate, 7–18 × 3.5–8 cm, 3-lobed to 3-parted; ultimate segments subrhombic, 1.2–2.5 × 0.8–2.5 cm, crenate or serrate. Upper leaves short-petiolate; blade broad-triangular, usually 3-parted, ultimate segments obovate. Umbels 1.5–4 cm across, usually leaf-opposed; peduncles usually short, 4–15 mm, stout, rarely obsolete; rays 3–8(–16), 0.5–2.5 cm, slender; umbellules

7–25-flowered, 6–9 mm across; pedicels 1–1.5 mm. Fruit 1.3–1.5 × 1–2 mm. Fl. and fr. Apr–Jul.

Widely cultivated and adventive throughout China [?native to Asia and Europe; cultivated and adventive worldwide].

This cosmopolitan species is cultivated as a vegetable (celery and celeriac) and is adventive in temperate regions worldwide. It has been cultivated since ancient times and features in the herbal medicinal traditions of many civilizations. All parts of the plant are used in traditional Chinese medicine as the dietary herb “qin” (also known as “han qin” and “qin cai”). There are several cultivated varieties; the cultivated Chinese celery is thought to be close or identical to var. *secalinum* Alefeld.

