

5. ERYNGIUM Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 232. 1753.

刺芹属 ci qin shu

She Menglan (佘孟兰 Sheh Meng-lan); Mark F. Watson

Herbs biennial or perennial, caulescent or acaulescent, usually glabrous. Taproot fusiform or stout. Stem solitary, creeping to erect, branched above. Leaves simple; petioles sheathing; blade entire, pinnately or palmately parted or divided, leathery or membranous, venation parallel or reticulate, margin often ciliate to spinose. Umbels simple, capitate forming globose to cylindrical heads; heads solitary or in cymes, sometimes racemes; bracts 1 to several, entire or divided, subtending the head; bracteoles 1 to many, subtending the individual flowers. Flowers small, bisexual, sessile. Calyx teeth prominent, persistent, ovate to lanceolate, acute to obtuse. Petals white or purple, ovate to oblong, with incurved apex. Stylopodium absent; styles shorter than or exceeding the calyx teeth. Fruit globose to obovoid, scarcely flattened laterally, variously covered with scales or tubercles; ribs obsolete; vittae mostly 5, inconspicuous; commissure broad. Seed subterete in cross section, face plane or slightly concave. Carpophore absent.

Between 220 and 250 species: tropics and temperate regions worldwide, especially South America; two species in China.

- 1a. Stem green; flowers white or pale yellow; heads cylindrical 1. *E. foetidum*
 1b. Stem gray-white or pale purple; flower pale blue; heads ovoid to subglobose 2. *E. planum*

1. Eryngium foetidum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 232. 1753.

Styles erect, ca. 2.5 mm. Fruit long-ellipsoid or subglobose, 3–

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Plants 8–40 cm high from a basal rosette. Taproot fusiform with fibrous roots. Stem green. Basal leaves numerous; petiole short or obsolete, sheath up to 3 cm; blade lanceolate or oblanceolate, entire, 5–25 × 1.2–4 cm, venation pinnately reticulate, base cuneate to decurrent, apex obtuse, callous-margined, crenate to finely spinulose-serrate. Upper leaves sessile, opposite deeply spinulose-serrate to parted. Inflorescence divaricately trifurcate; lateral branches often continuing to form a monochasium, heads numerous, short-pedunculate. Flower heads cylindrical, 5–12 × 3–5 mm; bracts 4–7, foliaceous, lanceolate, 1.5–3.5 × 0.4–1 cm, spreading to reflexed, margin 1–3-spinulose-serrate; bracteoles lanceolate, 1.5–1.8 × ca. 0.6 mm, brightly scarious-margined. Calyx teeth ovate-lanceolate, 0.5–1 mm, acute, equaling petals. Petals white or pale yellow. Styles erect, ca. 1.1 mm, exceeding calyx teeth. Fruit ovoid-globose, 1.1–1.3 mm, covered with tubercles. Fl. and fr. Apr–Dec.

Forests, stream banks, moist places, roadsides; 100–1500 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan [native to Central America; now a widespread weed in tropical and subtropical regions].

The leaves are used as a flavoring (similar to *Coriandrum sativum*), and the species has reputed medicinal value.

2. Eryngium planum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 233. 1753.

扁叶刺芹 bian ye ci qin

Plants 70–100 cm high. Taproot stout, woody; crown clothed with fibrous residues of leaf sheaths. Stem gray-white to purple. Basal leaves several; petiole 6–13 cm; blade narrowly elliptic-ovate, 5–8.5 × 2.5–5 cm, palmately 7–9-nerved, prominent on both surfaces, base cordate, margin coarsely toothed, teeth mucronate to short spinulose. Upper leaves sessile, shallowly to deeply 3–5-parted, lobes lanceolate, margin 1–4-spinulose-serrate. Inflorescence 1–4-trifurcate, heads terminal on branches. Flower heads round-ovoid, 8–15 × 7–13 mm; bracts 5–6, linear or lanceolate, margin 1–2-spinulose-serrate, apex acute; bracteoles linear or subulate, ca. 5 mm, as long as calyx teeth. Calyx teeth ovate, 2–2.3 × ca. 1.2 mm. Petals pale blue.

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3.5 × 1.5–1.8 mm, flattened dorsally, clothed with white, narrow long scales. Fl. and fr. Jul–Aug.

Ruderal of disturbed habitats; 500–1500 m. Xinjiang (Altay, Kukesu, Tacheng) [Kashmir, Russia (W Siberia); C and SW Asia, C and S Europe].

