

63. FOENICULUM Miller, Gard. Dict. Abr., ed. 4. 1754.

茴香属 hui xiang shu

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

Herbs, annual or perennial, all parts strongly aromatic (anise-scented). Stem erect, terete, gray-green or lurid-green, glabrous. Leaves petiolate, sheaths membranous-margined; blade pinnately decomposed; ultimate segments linear. Umbels compound, terminal and lateral; bracts and bracteoles absent; rays numerous, upwards-spreading, unequal. Calyx teeth obsolete. Petals yellow, obovate, mid rib conspicuous, apex with narrowly inflexed lobule. Stylopodium conic; styles very short, reflexed. Fruit oblong, terete, glabrous; ribs 5, acute or round-obtuse; vittae 1 in each furrow, 2 on commissure. Seed face plane or slightly concave. Carpophore 2-cleft to base.

One species: Mediterranean region; cultivated and adventive worldwide, including in China.

1. *Foeniculum vulgare* Miller, Gard. Dict., ed. 8, *Foeniculum* no. 1. 1768.

茴香 hui xiang

Anethum foeniculum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 263. 1753; *A. pannorium* Roxburgh; *Foeniculum officinale* Allioni; *F. pannorium* (Roxburgh) de Candolle; *Ligusticum foeniculum* (Linnaeus) Crantz; *Meum foeniculum* (Linnaeus) Sprengel; *Selinum foeniculum* (Linnaeus) E. H. L. Krause; *Seseli foeniculum* (Linnaeus) Koso-Poljansky.

Plants 0.4–2 m. Lower petioles 5–15 cm; blade broadly

triangular in outline, 4–30 × 5–40 cm, 4–5-pinnatisect; ultimate segments linear, 1–6 × ca. 0.1 mm. Umbels 5–9 cm across; peduncles 2–25 cm; rays 6–29(–40), unequal, 1.5–10 cm; umbel-lules 14–39-flowered; pedicels thin, 2–10 mm, unequal. Fruit 4–6(–10) × 1.5–2.2(–2.5) mm. Fl. May–Jun, fr. Jul–Sep.

Cultivated and adventive; 200–2600 m. Throughout China [native to the Mediterranean region; cultivated and adventive worldwide].

The stem, leaves, and fruit are commonly used as the dietary herb “xiao hui xiang” in traditional Chinese medicine to aid digestion. The leaves are used for flavoring and the fruits are used as a spice (fennel).

