

1. EXACUM Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 112. 1753.

藻百年属 zao bai nian shu

Annuals. Stems branched, glabrous. Leaves opposite. Cymes axillary or terminal, paniculate. Flowers 4- or 5-merous. Calyx lobed nearly to base. Corolla rotate, lobes longer than tube. Stamens inserted at throat of corolla tube just below sinus between corolla lobes; anthers cylindric, 2-locular, dehiscing by apical pores. Ovary 2-locular. Capsules 2-valved, many seeded. Seed coat warty.

About 40 species: tropical Africa, tropical and subtropical Asia, Madagascar; two species in China.

- 1a. Stems narrowly winged; calyx 5–6 mm; corolla mauve-blue to lilac; anthers 5.5–6.5 mm 1. *E. tetragonum*
1b. Stems terete; calyx 7–10 mm; corolla bright blue drying purplish pink; anthers (6.5–)8–10 mm 2. *E. teres*
1. *Exacum tetragonum* Roxburgh, Fl. Ind. ed. 1832, 1: 398. 1832.

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Plants 20–100 cm tall. Stems erect, apically branched, 4-angled. Leaves sessile, ovate-lanceolate to ovate, 1–5 × 0.8–2.5 cm, base rounded, nearly clasping, and decurrent into narrow wings on stem, apex acute; veins 3–5, abaxially prominent. Pedicel 3–10 mm. Calyx 5–6 mm; lobes ovate, margin broadly membranous, apex caudate, midvein keeled. Corolla mauve-blue to lilac, 1.5–2.5 cm; tube cylindric, 4–6 mm; lobes elliptic, 1.1–1.7 cm, margin entire, apex short acuminate. Filaments linear, 1.5–2 mm; anthers 5.5–6.5 mm. Style linear, 1–1.2 cm; stigma lobes orbicular. Capsules subglobose, 4–5 mm in diam. Seeds ellipsoid, 0.7–1 mm. Fl. and fr. Jul-Sep.

Roadsides, meadows; 200–1500 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Jiangxi, Yunnan [Cambodia, India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Guinea, Philippines, Sikkim, Vietnam; Australia].

2. *Exacum teres* Wallich in Roxburgh, Fl. Ind. 1: 414. 1820.

云南藻百年 yun nan zao bai nian

Plants (15–)30–100 cm tall. Stems erect or ascending, little branched, terete. Leaves sessile, narrowly ovate to lanceolate, 4–10 × 0.8–2.5(–3) cm, base cuneate, apex mostly acute but sometimes blunt on basal leaves; veins 3, prominent. Cymes mostly 3-flowered in a narrow racemelike inflorescence; peduncle to 1.5 cm, flattened, to 3 cm in fruit; bracts mostly linear, sometimes leaflike. Pedicel 0.5–2(–3) mm. Calyx 7–10 mm; lobes ovate, apex acuminate, midvein raised into a narrow wing. Corolla bright blue fading to purple and drying to purplish pink, 2.5–3 cm in diam.; tube ca. 0.7 cm; lobes 1.2–1.6 cm. × 6–7 mm, apex short acuminate. Filaments 2–3 mm; anthers (6.5–)8–10 mm. Style ca. 1.5 cm. Capsules ellipsoid, 7–12 × 5–8 mm. Seeds polygonal to brick-shaped, with a prominent, pale brown, spongy, loose outer coat opening to reveal dark brown, ellipsoid seed ca. 0.8 mm.

Disturbed sites, often along roadsides, on scree slopes or river beds; below 1500 m. Yunnan (Taying Jiang valley) [Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sikkim].

Exacum teres is known in China from a single George Forrest collection.

