
匙叶草属  chi ye cao shu

Herbs perennial, rhizomatous. Basal leaves in a well-developed rosette; blades mostly over 5 cm. Stem leaves in 1–3 pairs below inflorescence. Inflorescences formed by flowers in groups of (2 or) 3, partly in a terminal umbel-like cluster surrounded by whorl of 4 bracts, also in axil of bracts to form apparent whorls of (4–)6 flowers. Flowers 4-merous. Calyx lobed nearly to base. Corolla campanulate, lobed to middle, plicae absent. Stamens inserted at sinus between corolla lobes. Ovary incompletely 2-celled. Style slender, distinct; stigma 2-lobed. Nectaries in a whorl at base of ovary. Capsules distinctly curved, often with a long beaklike persistent style, many seeded. Seeds ± fusiform, wingless; seed coat longitudinally rugose.

• One species: endemic to SE and SW China.


匙叶草  chi ye cao

Plants 15–30 cm tall. Rhizomes short, stout, with long rootlets. Stems erect, terete, striate, simple. Basal leaves short petiolate; leaf blade obovate-spatulate, 8–10 × 3–6 cm including petiole, base narrowed, margin entire or slightly undulate, apex rounded, veins pinnate. Stem leaves sessile, spatulate, 1.5–2.5 cm × 7–10 mm, base rounded, margin entire, apex obtuse, veins pinnate. Inflorescences erect, rachis terete, striate, simple, ca. 3 mm wide when pressed; nodes minutely hairy. Pedicel spreading, 8–10 mm; bractlets 2 per flower, linear-lanceolate, 5–7 mm. Calyx 3.5–4.5 mm, lobes linear-lanceolate, apex acuminate, veins distinct. Corolla greenish, 1–1.2 cm; lobes ovate-triangular, 5–6 mm, margin entire, apex acuminate. Filaments 0.8–1 mm; anthers ellipsoid, 0.3–0.5 mm. Style linear, 2–3 mm. Capsules sessile, ovoid-conic, 1.5–1.8 cm. Seeds dark brown, 1.3–1.6 mm.

• Roadsides, forests; 1000–2100 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hunan, SE Sichuan, NE Yunnan.