
紫筒草属 zi tong cao shu

Herbs annual or biennial, hirtellous. Roots with little purple-red dye. Leaves alternate. Cymes scorpoid. Flowers short pedicellate. Calyx 5-parted nearly to base; lobes linear, slightly enlarged in fruit or not, without hardened base, apex acute. Corolla light violet, purple, or white, ca. 2 cm; tube narrow, long; throat unappendaged, with a narrow protective ring of hairs at base of tube; limb campanulate, 5-parted; lobes broadly ovate, apex rounded. Filaments extremely short, spirally attached slightly above middle of corolla tube; anthers broadly elliptic, apex obtuse. Ovary 4-divided. Style filiform, included, apex shortly 2-cleft; stigma 1 on each branch, globose. Gynobase nearly flat. Nutlets gray-brown, oblique ovoid, vertical, ca. 2 mm, densely tuberculate, apex acute; short stipe at base.

One species: China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia.


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Roots purplish brown, thin. Stems erect or ascending, not branched or less branched above, 10–25 cm tall, densely spreading hirsute, short strigose. Basal and lower stem leaves spatulate-linear or oblanceolate-linear. Upper stem leaves sessile, lanceolate-linear, 1.5–4.5 cm × 3–8 mm, densely hirsut, apex obtuse or subobtuse. Cymes terminal, gradually elongate, densely hirsut; bracts leaflike. Calyx ca. 7 mm, densely hirsute; lobes erect in fruit, subulate, base subtending fruit. Corolla 1–1.4 cm, sparsely strigose outside; tube thin, distinctly longer than limb, usually subarcuate; limb 5–7 mm wide; lobes spreading. Stipe of nutlets ca. 0.5 mm, attachment scar at base of stipe. Fl. May-Sep.

Meadows, roadside, cultivated ground. NW Gansu, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Ningxia, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shandong, N Shanxi [Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia].