

20. AVICENNIA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 110. 1753.

海欖雌属 hai lan ci shu

Shrubs or trees, maritime. Branches terete, sometimes 4-ridged when young. Leaves opposite. Inflorescences small spikes or capitula; bracts and bractlets ovate, shorter than calyx, persistent. Flowers small, opposite, sessile. Calyx cup-shaped, deeply 5-lobed; lobes overlapping, persistent. Corolla nearly actinomorphic, campanulate, shortly inserted on an inconspicuous disc; lobes 4 or 5, upper lobe often broader than others. Stamens 4, adnate to apical part of corolla tube. Ovary imperfectly 4-locular, with a free central winged placenta; ovules pendulous. Capsules subtended by persistent calyx, dehiscent into 2 leathery valves.

About 14 species: maritime in tropics and subtropics of both hemispheres, one species in China.

Avicennia is sometimes placed in the monogeneric family Avicenniaceae.

1. *Avicennia marina* (Forsskål) Vierhapper, Denkschr. Kaiserl. Acad. Wiss., Math.-Naturwiss. Kl. 71: 435. 1907.

海欖雌 hai lan ci

Sceura marina Forsskål, Fl. Aegypt.-Arab. 37. 1775.

Branchlets ridged when young. Leaves subsessile; leaf blade elliptic to ovate, 2–7 × 2–3.5 cm, leathery, abaxially pubescent, adaxially glabrous and shiny, base acuminate, margin

entire. Inflorescences capitate; peduncle 1–2.5 cm. Flowers ca. 5 mm in diam. Calyx and corolla outside densely pubescent, inside subglabrous, margin densely persistent ciliate. Stamens slightly exerted. Ovary densely pubescent. Style short, 2-cleft. Fruit nearly ovoid, ca. 1.2 cm in diam., pubescent.

Maritime. Fujian, Guangdong, Hainan, Taiwan [E Africa, S and SE Asia, N Australia].