

66. HYSSOPUS Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 569. 1753.

神香草属 shen xiang cao shu

Plants perennial herbs or subshrubs. Leaves mostly linear to oblong, margin entire, involute, or flat. Verticillasters 2- to many flowered, mostly secund, axillary, often in long terminal spikes, lower ones lax, upper crowded; floral leaves similar to stem leaves, reduced; bracts and bracteoles minute. Pedicel distinct. Calyx tubular to subcampanulate, brightly colored, conspicuously 15-veined, hairy, glandular, teeth 5, equal, sinuses with a thickening at junction of 2 side veins. Corolla blue, purple, or occasionally white, hairy outside, glandular, glabrous inside, tube nearly included or conspicuously exerted, limb 2-lipped; upper lip emarginate or 2-lobed, sometimes subentire; lower lip spreading, 3-lobed; middle lobe longer than lateral lobes, truncate to emarginate. Stamens 4, mostly exerted, anterior 2 longer; filaments glabrous; anthers ovoid, cells 2, divaricate. Style apex equally 2-cleft. Nutlets oblong to oblong-ovoid, hairy, glandular, or glabrous.

About 15 species: Africa, Asia, Europe; two native and one cultivated in China.

- 1a. Leaves, bracts, and calyx teeth cuspidate at apex 2. *H. cuspidatus*
 1b. Leaves, bracts, and calyx teeth not cuspidate.
 2a. Corolla ca. 1 cm, tube nearly included; calyx ca. 7.5 mm; nutlets glabrous; leaves 1–4 cm×2–7 mm 1. *H. officinalis*
 2b. Corolla ca. 1.3 cm, tube conspicuously exerted; calyx ca. 6 mm; nutlets puberulent at apex; leaves 1–2 cm×1–2 mm 3. *H. latilabiatius*

1. *Hyssopus officinalis* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 569. 1753.

神香草 shen xiang cao

Subshrubs. Stems 20–50(–80) cm, much branched, striate, pubescent. Leaves sessile, linear to lanceolate, 1–4 cm×2–7 mm, glabrous, glandular, scabrous and finely strigose along margin, base attenuate to cuneate, margin slightly involute, apex obtuse. Verticillasters 3–7-flowered, axillary, secund, in spikes ca. 4 cm or sometimes in panicles to 10 cm; peduncle less than 1 mm; bracts and bracteoles linear-subulate, apex acute, longer than pedicels, 3–5 mm. Pedicel 0.5–1.5 mm. Calyx tubular, ca. 7.5 mm, veins puberulent, glandular between veins; teeth triangular-lanceolate, ca. 2.5 mm, apex short spinescent. Corolla bluish to purple, ca. 1 cm, puberulent; tube ca. 7 mm, nearly included; upper lip ovate, erect, ca. 2.5 mm, 2-lobed; lower lip spreading, middle lobe wider than ovate lateral lobes. Anterior stamens much exerted. Ovary glabrous. Fl. Jun.

Cultivated in China [Europe].

A polymorphic aromatic herb. Essential oil is used for flavoring liqueurs.

2. *Hyssopus cuspidatus* Borissova-Bekrjasheva, Bot. Mater. Gerb. Bot. Inst. Komarova Akad. Nauk SSSR 12: 256. 1950.

硬尖神香草 ying jian shen xiang cao

Hyssopus cuspidatus var. *albiflorus* C. Y. Wu & H. W. Li.

Subshrubs. Stems enlarged, 30–60 cm, base woody, brown, twisted, branching from base, bark exfoliating; branches numerous, glabrous to subglabrous, base purplish. Leaves sessile, linear, 1.5–4.5 cm×2–4 mm, mostly longer than internodes, glabrous, base attenuate, margin finely strigose, ± incurved, apex cuspidate, ca. 2 mm, ± deciduous. Verticillasters 10-flowered, pedunculate, secund, in 3–8 cm spikes; peduncle 1–2 mm; bracts and bracteoles linear, 4–8 mm, longer than pedicels, apices 2–3 mm. Calyx tubular, ca. 1 cm, throat slightly dilated, sparsely yellow glandular, veins and teeth puberulent; teeth triangular-lanceolate, ca. 4 mm, apex cuspidate. Corolla purple to white, ca. 1.2 cm, puberulent, yellow glandular; tube slightly incurved, gradually dilated upward; upper lip straight, ca. 3 mm, lobes acute; lower lip ca. 4 mm, middle lobe obcordate, apex emarginate, not wider than lateral lobes; lateral lobes broadly

ovate, ca. 1.5 mm wide. Nutlets brown, triquetrous, oblong, ca. 2.5×0.7 mm, apex rounded, glandular, areolae basal, white.

Gravelly or stony, dry hillside grasslands; 1100–1800 m. Xinjiang [Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia].

3. *Hyssopus latilabiatius* C. Y. Wu & H. W. Li, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 10: 229. 1965.

宽唇神香草 kuan chun shen xiang cao

Subshrubs. Stems glabrous, base woody, brown, twisted, branches numerous from base, wandlike, ca. 20 cm, bark exfoliating, internodes longer than leaves. Leaves sessile, linear, 1–2 cm×1–2 mm, glabrous, impressed glandular, base cuneate, margin ± involute, apex obtuse. Verticillasters ± secund, pedunculate, in terminal spikes 5–8 cm, lower spikes 1–4-flowered, upper 6–8-flowered; peduncle ca. 2 cm; floral leaves similar, 3–10×less than 1 mm; bracts and bracteoles linear-subulate, shorter than pedicels. Pedicel 2–4 mm. Calyx tubular-campanulate, tinged purple, ca. 6 mm, pubescent, glandular; teeth triangular, ca. 2 mm, apex acute. Corolla purple, ca. 1.3 cm, pubescent, sometimes glandular toward apex; upper lip straight, oblong, ca. 5 mm, lobes ovate; lower lip spreading, ca. 7 mm wide; middle lobe to 1 cm wide, much wider than lateral lobes, obcordate, abruptly constricted at base, 2-lobulate, undulate; lateral lobes ovate, ca. 2 mm wide. Ovary apex pubescent. Fl. Aug.

- Steppes. Xinjiang.

