
夏至草属 xia zhi cao shu

Herbs diffuse or ascending, perennial. Leaves circular to cordate, palmately lobed or divided. Verticillasters axillary; bracteoles needlelike. Flowers small. Calyx tubular to tubular-campanulate, 5–10-veined; teeth 5, unequal, 2 slightly larger, conspicuous, spreading especially in fruit. Corolla white, yellow to brown-purple, 2-lipped; tube not hairy annulate; upper lip straight, entire or emarginate; lower lip 3-lobed, spreading, middle lobe widest and cordate. Stamens 4, small, anterior 2 longer, included; filaments short; anther cells 2, divergent. Style included, apex 2-cleft. Nutlets triquetrous, ovoid, smooth, scaly to finely netted.

Four species: mainly in N Asia, three species in China.

1a. Verticillasters in loose elongated spikes, not lanate; corolla white, rarely rose .......................................................... 3. *L. supina*

1b. Verticillasters in compact, terminal, densely lanate spikes; corolla yellow to brown-purple.

2a. Corolla yellow; leaves cordate, palmately lobed; terminal spikes ovoid .......................................................... 1. *L. flava*

2b. Corolla brown-purple; leaves reniform-orbicular, palmately partite; terminal spikes oblong-ovoid ........... 2. *L. eriostachys*


黄花夏至草 huang hua xia zhi cao

*Marrubium flavum* (Karlin & Kirilow) Walpers.

Stems branched at base, 7–20 cm tall, ± floccose-lanate. Petiole 2–3.5 cm basally, 1 cm upward; leaf blade cordate, 1–1.5×1.2–2 cm, lanate-villos; lobes broadly elliptic to ovate, margin ciliate-renate. Verticillasters many flowered, in terminal, densely lanate, ovoid spikes the 2 or 3 basal ones occasionally widely spaced; bracteoles 1/2 as long to as long as calyx tube. Pedicel absent. Calyx tubular-campanulate, 8–9 mm, 5-veined, densely lanate, glabrescent and conspicuously veined in fruit; teeth subequal, ca. 4 mm, triangular, apically spiny. Corolla yellow with brown base, ca. 7 mm, villous; tube cylindric, ca. 5×1–1.5 mm, included; upper lip ovate, slightly longer than lower lip; middle lobe of lower lip broadly elliptic, subentire or emarginate, lateral lobes elliptic. Nutlets yellow-brown, triquetrous, ovoid, ca. 2 mm. Fl. Jun-Jul, fr. Jul-Aug.

- Gravelly slopes; 2100–2400 m. Xinjiang [Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan].


毛穗夏至草 mao sui xia zhi cao


Stems purple, erect, slightly branched from base, 25–30 cm tall, ± floccose-lanate. Petiole 2–4 cm basally, less than 1 cm upward; leaf blade reniform-orbicular, 2.5–3×3–4 cm, palmately divided, lobes ovate to broadly elliptic, adaxially ± villous; abaxially pilose and glandular, base cordate, margin 1- or 2-renate, apex rounded. Verticillasters many flowered, in terminal, oblong-ovoid, densely white lanate spikes, 1 or 2 basal spikes widely spaced; floral leaves 3-lobed; bracteoles needlelike, ca. 5 mm, densely lanate. Pedicel absent. Calyx tubular-campanulate, ca. 1 cm, densely lanate, 5-veined, veins ± distinct in fruit; teeth 3–4 mm, triangular, apically spiny, subequal, 2 slightly longer. Corolla brown-purple, ca. 8 mm, villous; tube ca. 6×1.5 mm, included; upper lip ovate, almost as long as lower lip; middle lobe of lower lip broadly ovate, apex emarginate, lateral lobes elliptic. Immature nutlets triquetrous, ovoid. Fl. Aug.

- Stony slopes. Qinghai, Xinjiang [Mongolia, Russia].


夏至草 xia zhi cao


Stems purplish, few, 15–35 cm tall, densely puberulent. Petiole 2–3 cm basally, ca. 1 cm upward; leaf blade circular, 1.5–2×1.5–2 cm, adaxially sparsely puberulent, abaxially glandular, villous on veins, 3-lobed or 3-partite, lobes entire to oblong-dentate; basal lobes much larger, ciliate, base cordate. Verticillasters widely spaced, few flowered, ca. 1 cm in diam., lax basally, compact upward; bracteoles ca. 4 mm, curved, spikelike, densely puberulent. Calyx tubular-campanulate, ca. 4 mm, densely puberulent; teeth triangular, unequal, 1–1.5 mm, margin finely ciliate, apically spiny, distinctly spreading, 2 teeth slightly larger in fruit. Corolla white, rarely rose, slightly exerted, ca. 7 mm, lanate-villos; tube ca. 5×1.5 mm; upper lip straight, longer than lower lip, oblong, margin entire; lower lip obliquely spreading, middle lobe oblateral, lateral lobes elliptic. Nutlets brown, oblong-ovoid, ca. 1.5 mm, scaly. Fl. Mar-Apr, fr. May-Jun.

- A weed in open waste areas; to 2600 m. Anhui, Gansu, Guizhou, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Henan, Hubei, Jiangsu, Jilin, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi, Sichuan, Xinjiang, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Japan, Mongolia, Russia].

Used medicinally.