

12. LAVANDULA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 572. 1753.

薰衣草属 xun yi cao shu

Plants small shrubs, rarely herbs. Verticillasters 2–10-flowered, in crowded terminal spikes; bracteoles small or absent. Flowers short pedicellate or subsessile. Calyx ovoid-tubular to tubular, slightly dilated in fruit, straight, 13–15-veined, 2-lipped; upper lip entire, protracted into an appendage; lower lip equally (2–)4-toothed, teeth narrower than those of upper lip. Corolla blue or purple; tube exerted, throat ± dilated; limb 2-lipped, upper lip 2-lobed, lower 3-lobed. Stamens 4, included, anterior 2 longer; anther cells apically confluent. Style inserted at ovary base, apex 2-cleft, lobes flattened, ovate, connate. Nutlets smooth, shiny, each with a basal-dorsal areole.

About 28 species: China, India, Pakistan; Africa, SW Asia, Atlantic Islands, Europe; two species are cultivated in China.

- 1a. Bracts rhombic-ovate; lower calyx teeth distinct; lobes of upper lip of corolla straight, slightly overlapping 1. *L. angustifolia*
1b. Bracts linear; lower calyx teeth indistinct; lobes of upper lip of corolla divaricate almost at right angles 2. *L. latifolia*

1. *Lavandula angustifolia* Miller, Gard. Dict. ed. 8, 1768.

薰衣草 xun yi cao

Lavandula spicata Linnaeus; *L. vera* de Candolle.

Shrubs dwarf, stellate tomentose. Branches gray-brown to dark brown, with long flowering and short leafy shoots, bark longitudinally exfoliating. Leaves widely spaced on flowering shoots, clustered on leafy shoots, linear to lanceolate-linear, 3–5 cm×3–5 mm on flowering shoots, less than ca. 17×2 mm on leafy shoots, gray stellate tomentose, base attenuate to a very short petiole, margin entire and revolute, apex obtuse. Verticillasters 6–10-flowered, numerous, in crowded, interrupted or ± continuous spikes ca. 3(–5) cm; peduncle ca. 3×as long as spike; bracts rust colored when dry, rhombic-ovate or acuminate-subulate; bracteoles indistinct. Pedicel short. Calyx ovoid-tubular to subtubular, 4–5 mm, 13-veined, densely gray stellate tomentose outside; upper lip entire, lower lip equally 4-toothed. Corolla blue, 8–10 mm, 13-veined, densely tomentose outside, base subglabrous, throat and limb glandular hairy, puberulent annulate inside; upper lip straight, with lobes circular and slightly overlapping; lower lip spreading. Nutlets 4, smooth. Fl. Jun.

Cultivated as an ornamental and aromatic plant in China [Africa, Europe].

2. *Lavandula latifolia* Villars, Hist. Pl. Dauphine 2: 363. 1787.

宽叶薰衣草 kuan ye xun yi cao

Subshrubs. Branches densely stellate tomentulose. Leaves clustered at branch bases, widely spaced apically, narrowly lanceolate to linear, 2–4 cm×2–5 mm, densely stellate tomentulose, base attenuate to petiole, margin entire and revolute, apex obtuse to acute. Verticillasters 4–6-flowered, lax, 7 or 8 in a terminally interrupted 15–25 cm pedunculate spike; peduncle 17–30 cm; bracts linear, almost as long as corolla; bracteoles linear, shorter than calyx. Calyx tubular, straight, 5–6 mm, densely stellate tomentose, 13-veined, 5-toothed; posterior tooth conspicuously larger than other 4 inconspicuous teeth. Corolla 1–1.1 cm, densely tomentose; upper lip straight, with lobes divaricate almost at a right angle, ovate, apically obtuse; lobes of lower lip subcircular. Fl. Jun-Jul.

Occasionally cultivated in China [Africa, Europe].

