

13. MARRUBIUM Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 582. 1753.

欧夏至草属 ou xia zhi cao shu

Herbs erect perennials or very rarely annuals, ± villous to lanate. Leaves circular to ovate, corrugate, margin dentate. Verticillasters axillary, many flowered; bracts subulate, rarely absent. Flowers small. Calyx tubular, 5–10-veined; teeth 5–10, rigid, needlelike, equal or main teeth larger than accessory teeth, straight or spreading-reflexed. Corolla white or purple, rarely yellow, 2-lipped; tube included, glabrous or pilose annulate inside; upper lip straight, ± flat, apex emarginate or 2-lobed; lower lip spreading, 3-lobed, middle lobe apex emarginate. Stamens 4, small, included, anterior 2 longer; anther cells 2, divergent. Style included, apex 2-cleft. Nutlets triquetrous, ovoid, smooth, apex rounded.

About 40 species: temperate N Africa, Asia, and Europe, especially in the Mediterranean region; one species in China.

1. *Marrubium vulgare* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 583. 1753.

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Marrubium vulgare Linnaeus var. *lanatum* Benth.

Stems branched or unbranched, 30–40 cm tall, base woody, densely appressed lanate-villous. Leaves reduced upward; petiole 0.7–1.5 cm; leaf blade ovate to circular, 2–3.5×1.8–3 cm, adaxially polished, corrugate, and sparsely villous, abaxially densely scabrid strigose-villous, base broadly cuneate to rounded, margin dentate-serrate, apex obtuse to subrounded. Verticillasters axillary, many flowered, widely spaced basally, crowded upward, globose, 1.5–2.3 cm in diam.; bracts subulate, as long as to longer than calyx tube, reflexed. Calyx 10-veined; teeth 10, main 5 long, alternate with to 5 accessory teeth, 1–4 mm, subulate, hooked. Corolla white, ca. 9 mm; tube ca. 6 mm, densely pubescent outside, pilose annulate inside; upper lip as long as or slightly shorter than lower lip, straight or spreading, 2-lobed; middle lobe of lower lip reniform, undulate, 2-cleft. Nutlets triquetrous, ovoid, warty. Fl. Jun-Aug, fr. Jul-Sep.

Dry grassy loess, slopes. Xinjiang [Afghanistan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; SW Asia, Europe].

A bitter herb, which when dried is used as tea for debility and colds. The plant is also used in certain candies for coughs and sore throat, as an expectorant, as a diaphoretic, and as a laxative when taken in large doses. It is the source of an essential oil used in liqueurs. It is also a honey plant.

