

90. MESONA Blume, Bijdr. 838. 1826.

凉粉草属 liang fen cao shu

Herbs. Leaves petiolate, dentate. Verticillasters in terminal racemes; bracts sessile, circular, ovate to lanceolate, apex caudate-mucronate, sometimes brightly colored. Pedicel slender, hairy. Calyx campanulate in flower, tubular or urceolate-tubular in fruit, 10-veined, transversely many veined, pitted in fruit, 2-lipped; upper lip 3-toothed, middle tooth very large; lower lip entire, occasionally emarginate. Corolla white or reddish; throat very wide, not hairy annulate inside; limb 2-lipped, upper lip truncate or 4-lobed; lower lip longer than upper lip, margin entire, navicular. Stamens 4, exserted; filaments free, posterior 2 1-dentate at base; anthers 1-locellate. Style longer than stamens, apex unequally 2-cleft, lobes subulate. Nutlets oblong or ovoid, smooth or inconspicuously tuberculate.

About 8–10 species: Asia, two species in China.

- 1a. Leaves narrowly or broadly ovate to subcircular, apex acute to obtuse, base cuneate to sometimes rounded 1. *M. chinensis*
- 1b. Leaves narrowly elliptic or ovate-lanceolate, apex short acuminate, base attenuate 2. *M. parviflora*

1. Mesona chinensis Bentham, Fl. Hongk. 274. 1861.

凉粉草 liang fen cao

Mesona elegans Hayata; *M. procumbens* Hemsley.

Stems 15–100 cm; branches and stems pilose or finely bristly, glabrescent. Petiole 2–15 mm; leaf blade narrowly ovate to subcircular, 2–5 × 0.8–2.8 cm, finely bristly, villous, or glabrescent or abaxially hairy along veins, base cuneate to sometimes rounded, margin serrate, apex acute to obtuse. Verticillasters in pedunculate, terminal, erect or upwardly oblique panicles 2–10(–13) cm; bracts circular to rhombic-ovate, sublanceolate, apex caudate-mucronate, shorter to slightly longer than flowers, bright colored. Pedicel 3–4(–5) mm, short hairy. Calyx 2–2.5 mm, densely white pilose, middle lobe of upper lip acute to obtuse, lower lip sometimes emarginate; fruiting calyx 3–5 mm, subglabrous or hairy on veins. Corolla white or reddish, ca. 3 mm, puberulent, throat very dilated; upper lip 4-lobed, lateral 2 lobes distinct, longer than middle lobes, or upper lip subentire. Anterior stamens longer than basally hirsute posterior pair. Nutlets black, oblong. Fl. and fr. Jul–Oct.

• Ravines, grassy, dry, and sandy areas. Guangdong, Guangxi, Jiangxi, Taiwan, Zhejiang.

A decoction of dried plants mixed with rice water is used as a cooling drink in Guangdong and Guangxi provinces.

2. Mesona parviflora (Bentham) Briquet, Nat. Pflanzenfam., div. 4, 3a: 365. 1897.

小花凉粉草 xiao hua liang fen cao

Geniosporum parviflorum Bentham, Pl. Asiat. Rar. 2: 18. 1830; *Mesona wallichiana* Bentham.

Herbs erect. Stems to 35 cm tall, unbranched, fine bristly, glabrescent. Petiole 2–5 mm; leaf blade narrowly elliptic to ovate-lanceolate, 2–3.5 × to 1.5 cm, fine bristly, base attenuate, margin serrate, apex short acuminate. Verticillasters in terminal pedunculate racemes 6–10 cm; peduncle 1.5–2.5 cm; bracts sessile, ovate, apex caudate-acuminate. Fruiting pedicels subequal to calyx. Fruiting calyx 4–5 mm, veins finely bristly or subglabrous declinate; upper lip 3-lobed, middle lobe very dilated, apex acute; lower lip entire, apex truncate. Nutlets unknown.

Yunnan [India].

