

## 15. *SIDERITIS* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 574. 1753.

毒马草属 du ma cao shu

Subshrubs or annual or perennial herbs, lanate or villous. Leaves petiolate. Verticillasters 2- to many flowered, in terminal spikes; floral leaves reduced to bracts. Flowers small. Calyx tubular-campanulate, equally or subequally 5-toothed or slightly 2-lipped, 5–10-veined; teeth straight, apex spiny. Corolla yellow, 2-lipped; tube included; upper lip straight, nearly flat, entire to 2-lobed; lower lip spreading, 3-lobed; middle lobe large, apex emarginate. Stamens 4, included, didynamous, anterior 2 longer, with deformed anthers, posterior 2 shorter, with 2-celled anthers; anther cells divaricate. Style included, apex unequally 2-cleft. Nutlets triquetrous, ovoid, smooth, apex obtuse to rounded.

Approximately 100 species: temperate Asia and Europe, two species in China.

- 1a. Corolla yellow, turning purplish when dry; internodes of inflorescence longer than calyx ..... 1. *S. montana*  
1b. Corolla purplish; internodes of inflorescence shorter than calyx ..... 2. *S. balansae*

### 1. *Sideritis montana* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 575. 1753.

毒马草 du ma cao

Herbs annual. Stems ca. 20 cm tall, erect or ascending, spreading hirtellous. Petiole short to almost absent; leaf blade lanceolate to elliptic, 1–2 cm×ca. 5 mm, sparsely pilose, base cuneate, margin entire or remotely serrulate, apex acute. Verticillasters 6- to many flowered; bracts longer than flowers. Calyx 8–10 mm, tube cylindric, villous, 10-veined; teeth equal or subequal, oblong-lanceolate, 3–4 mm, apex spiny, ciliate; fruiting calyx slightly dilated, urceolate-campanulate, distinctly veined. Corolla yellow; tube included; upper lip oblate, ca. 1.5 mm, 2-lobed; lower lip ca. 1 mm. Nutlets gray-brown, triquetrous, ovoid, ca. 1.5 mm, smooth. Fl. and fr. Jun-Aug.

• Valleys, thickets. Xinjiang [Russia, Turkmenistan; SW Asia, Europe].

A toxic weed.

### 2. *Sideritis balansae* Boissier, Diagn. Ser. 2, no. 4: 35. 1859.

紫花毒马草 zi hua du ma cao

Herbs annual. Stems 2–15 cm tall, erect or ascending, turning red basally, sparsely pilose. Leaves long petiolate, elliptic to oblong, to 15×8 mm, pilose, margin with few oblique serrations, apex obtuse. Verticillasters 2–6-flowered, in compact spikes; bracts similar to stem leaves, as long as or longer than flowers. Pedicel 2–3 mm. Calyx 5–9 mm, spreading pilose, sometimes reddish, distinctly 10-veined; teeth ovate-lanceolate, equal or subequal, straight, apex cuspidate; fruiting calyx slightly dilated, urceolate-campanulate, constricted. Corolla purplish, included or slightly exerted, upper lip 2-lobed. Nutlets gray, triquetrous, ovoid, 1–1.5 mm, smooth. Fl. and fr. Jun-Aug.

• Valleys, thickets. Xinjiang [Russia; SW Asia].

Kamelin (in litt.) believes that Chinese records of this species are based on misidentifications of *Sideritis montana* which can have a purplish corolla when dried.

