

**4. STACHYTARPHETA** Vahl, Enum. Pl. 1: 205. 1804, nom. cons.

假马鞭属 jia ma bian shu

Herbs or shrubs. Branches usually forked, hairy. Leaves opposite, petiolate, simple; leaf blade dentate or crenate, often rugose. Spikes terminal, usually long, lax; rachis often angular, excavated. Flowers  $\pm$  immersed in excavated rachis when young. Calyx membranous, 4- or 5-dentate, becoming variously slit. Corolla slender, cylindric; tube often curved,  $\pm$  villous in throat; lobes 5, spreading. Stamens 2, fertile, inserted on distal part of corolla tube; anthers divaricate. Ovary supported by a short ringlike disc, 2-locular; ovules 2 per locule. Stigma capitate. Capsules splitting into 2 1-seeded cocci.

About 65 species: tropical America, a few species introduced in the Old World; one species a naturalized weed in China.

**1. Stachytarpheta jamaicensis** (Linnaeus) Vahl, Enum. Pl. 1: 206. 1804.

假马鞭 jia ma bian

*Verbena jamaicensis* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 19. 1753.

Subshrubs or robust perennial herbs, 0.6–2 m tall. Branches 4-angled when young, sparsely pubescent to subglabrous. Petiole winged; leaf blade elliptic to oblong-ovate, 2.4–8  $\times$  4.5 cm, papery, subglabrous, base elongated, margin serrate, apex acuminate, veins 5 or 6 pairs. Spikes few to 20 cm or longer; bracts ca. 5 mm, membranous. Calyx ca. 6 mm, glabrous. Corolla dark blue; tube 7–12 mm, slightly curved. Capsules included in calyx.

Shaded grassy places in valleys; 300–600 m. Naturalized weed in Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Taiwan, Yunnan [tropical America, naturalized throughout tropics].

Medicinal.

