
假马齿苋属  jia ma chi xian shu

Bramia Lamarck; Herpestis C. F. Gaertner; Mella Vandelli; Sinobacopa D. Y. Hong.

Herbs, erect or creeping. Leaves opposite. Flowers solitary, axillary or in terminal racemes. Bracteoles 1 or 2 or absent. Sepals (4 or)5, entirely free, imbricate, upper 1 largest, lower 2 next large, lateral 2 innermost and narrowest. Corolla tube tubular; limb patent, conspicuously or obscurely 2-lipped; lower lip 3-lobed; upper lip 2-lobed. Stamens 4, didynamous or equal in length, very rarely 5; anther locules parallel, free. Stigma dilated, capitate or 2-lobed. Capsule ovoid or globose, 2-grooved, 4-valved. Seeds numerous, minute.

About 60 species: tropics and subtropics, mainly in America; three species in China.

1a. Stems erect; pedicel ca. 0.2 cm ........................................................................................... 1. B. floribunda

1b. Stems creeping; pedicel 0.5–3.5 cm.

2a. Bracteoles 2, just below calyx; stamens didynamous; lower and upper sepals ovate-lanceolate  2. B. monnieri

2b. Bracteoles absent; stamens equal in length; lower and upper sepals linear-elliptic 3. B. repens


麦花草  mai hua cao

Herpestis floribunda R. Brown, Prodr. 442. 1810; Mella floribunda (R. Brown) Pennell.

Annuals. Roots fibrous. Stems erect, 15–40 cm, sometimes apically branched, basally glabrous, apically sparsely scabrous. Leaves sessile, linear to linear-elliptic, 1–5 cm, glabrous, margin entire or few serrate. Flowers axillary or sometimes in terminal racemes. Pedicel ca. 2 mm. Bracteoles 2, filiform, below calyx. Sepals scabrous, ciliate, abaxially yellow glandular punctate; upper sepal orbicular, ca. 6 mm; lower 2 sepals ovate; lateral 2 sepals ovate to lanceolate. Corolla white, as long as calyx. Stamens didynamous. Stigma 2-lobed. Capsule ovoid, enveloped in inflated calyx. Seeds black, ellipsoid-conical, ca. 0.3 mm; seed coat reticulate. Fl. Aug–Nov.

By water, wet places, sandy beaches; below 1100 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Taiwan, Yunnan [widespread in tropics and subtropics].

For a discussion on the nomenclature of the species, see Philcox (Kew Bull. 33: 679–680. 1979).


假马齿苋  jia ma chi xian

Lysimachia monnieri Linnaeus, Cent. Pl. II 9. 1756; Bacopa monniera (Linnaeus) Wettstein; Gratiola monnieri (Linnaeus) Linnaeus.

Annuals. Stems creeping and rooting at nodes at least basally, branched, 12–20 cm, internodes 3–6 cm, succulent. Leaves sessile, obovate to obovate-lanceolate, 1.2–2.5 x 0.7–1.3 cm, smaller on branches, margin entire; veins 9 or 10, parallel. Flowers axillary, pendulous. Pedicel 1–2 cm. Bracteoles absent. Sepals (4 or)5, 3–4 mm, margin ciliate, apex obtuse; lower and upper sepals linear-elliptic, 5-veined; lateral 2 sepals linear, 1-veined. Corolla white, almost as long as sepals; lobes obovate, apex rounded; upper lip lobed to middle, lobes narrowly obovate, apex rounded. Stamens equal, ca. 1.2 mm, inserted at throat; filaments as long as anthers; anthers ± sagittate. Stigma 2-parted; lobes reflexed. Capsule globose, ca. 1.7 mm in diam. Seeds columnar-oblong, ca. 0.5 mm; seed coat reticulate. Fl. Aug–Sep.

Paddy fields; low elevations. Fujian (Fuzhou Shi), Guangdong (Guangzhou Shi), Hainan (Lingshui Xian) [North and South America].