

## 6. BLEPHARIS Jussieu, Gen. Pl. 103. 1789.

百勒花属 bai le hua shu

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Herbs, perennial [annual herbs or shrubs], without cystoliths, anisophyllous. Leaves usually in pseudo-whorls of 4 [or opposite], sessile to subsessile; leaf blade margin entire to dentate. Flowers axillary and solitary or many in terminal dense headlike spikes; bracts often clustered in up to 5 pairs, imbricate, leathery, margin often bristly dentate with bristles barbed; bracteoles absent [or 2]. Calyx included in bracts or  $\pm$  exserted, 4-lobed; lobes in 2 unequal opposite pairs, thickened-horny at base, posterior and anterior lobes larger and 2–7-veined, lateral pair smaller and 1-veined. Corolla tube shorter than limb, expanded from base and constricted near apex; limb a single (lower) lip; lip elongate, 3[–5]-lobed. Stamens 4, didynamous, inserted at or near apex of corolla tube; filaments bony, with lower pair straight and upper pair curved, broad, flattened, usually bifurcate apically into a branch bearing an anther and a toothlike appendage; anthers 1-theous; theca bearded. Ovary glabrous, with 2 ovules per locule; style linear; stigma 2-cleft. Capsule not stipitate, oblong to ellipsoid, 2(–4)-seeded; retinacula present. Seeds discoid, covered with long branched hygroscopic trichomes.

About 130 species: Old World tropical and subtropical regions; one species in China.

*Blepharis* was recently revised by K. Vollesen (*Blepharis* (Acanthaceae): A Taxonomic Revision, 1–342. 2000).

**1. *Blepharis maderaspatensis*** (Linnaeus) B. Heyne ex Roth,  
Nov. Pl. Sp. 320. 1821.

百勒花 bai le hua

*Acanthus maderaspatensis* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 639. 1753;  
*Blepharis boerhaviifolia* Persoon, nom. illeg. superfl.; *B. boerhaviifolia* var. *maderaspatensis* (Linnaeus) Nees.

Herbs to 30 cm tall, perennial. Stems trailing or scrambling to decumbent, sometimes elongate, scabrous or pubescent. Leaves usually 4 per pseudo-whorl of 2 unequal pairs; petiole ca. 2 mm, puberulent; leaf blade elliptic to obovate-lanceolate, 2.5–5  $\times$  1–2 cm, puberulent, secondary veins 3–5 on each side of midvein, base cuneate, margin undulate or dentate, apex acute. Flowers axillary and solitary or in clusters of few-flowered spikes; bracts paired, broadly spatulate to obovate-oblong, 4–13  $\times$  2–6 mm, unequal with inner pairs larger than outer ones, strongly 3-veined, margin bristly ciliate. Calyx puberulent, unequally lobed; posterior and anterior lobes oblong, 1.2–1.8  $\times$  0.4–0.6 cm, 3-veined, apex of anterior lobe often 2-cleft; lateral lobes linear-lanceolate, 9–12  $\times$  2–3 mm, margin ciliate. Corolla whitish, often with pink or purple; lip obovate, 1.6–1.7  $\times$  ca. 0.8 cm, spreading; lobes ovate-oblong. Staminal filaments ca. 5 mm. Style ca. 1.2 cm. Capsule ellipsoid, ca. 8 mm, glabrous. Seeds ca. 3  $\times$  2 mm. Fl. Dec.  $2n = 16, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30$ .

Limestone cliffs or rocks; ca. 800 m. Hainan [Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; tropical and subtropical Africa, SW Asia, Madagascar].

Fl. China 19: 380. 2011.