

## 21. DENTELLA J. R. Forster & G. Forster, Char. Gen. Pl. 13. 1775.

小牙草属 xiao ya cao shu

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Herbs, annual or perennial, prostrate, unarmed. Raphides present. Leaves opposite, usually relatively small, without domatia; stipules persistent, interpetiolar and frequently fused to petioles, triangular, entire to erose, often scarious. Inflorescences terminal or displaced to pseudoaxillary, 1-flowered, ebracteate, subsessile or pedunculate. Flowers bisexual, remarkably reduced. Calyx with ovary portion sometimes papillose-villous with distinctive flattened trichomes; limb tubular, 5-lobed or -toothed. Corolla white to pink, funnellform, inside frequently pubescent in throat; lobes 5, valvate in bud. Stamens 5, inserted at middle or perhaps base of corolla tube, included; filaments short; anthers basifixed or perhaps dorsifixed, included. Ovary 2-celled, ovules numerous in each cell inserted on axile subglobose placentas; stigmas 2, filiform, included. Fruit indehiscent, subglobose to ellipsoid, dry, papery, sometimes papillose-villous with distinctive flattened trichomes, with calyx limb persistent; seeds numerous, small, angled; testa granulate; endosperm fleshy; embryo minute.

About ten species: S Asia to Oceania, with one species apparently adventive in North America; one species in China.

The seeds and capsules of this species were described in detail by Terrell and Robinson (J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas 1(1): 373–384. 2007).

**1. *Dentella repens*** (Linnaeus) J. R. Forster & G. Forster, Char. Gen. Pl. 13. 1775.

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*Oldenlandia repens* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 2: 126; Mant. Pl. 1: 40. 1767; *Dentella matsudae* Hayata; *D. repens* var. *grandis* Pierre ex Pitard.

Dwarf herbs, creeping, much branched, rather fleshy; branches flattened to angled, glabrous or puberulent, often rooting at nodes. Leaves subsessile to shortly petiolate; petiole to 1[–4] mm; blade drying stiffly papery, oblong-lanceolate, oblanceolate, or spatulate, 4–7[–10] × 1–2[–4] mm, glabrous or sparsely hirtellous at least along margins and principal veins, base cuneate to acute, margins flat, apex obtuse to acute; secondary veins not visible; stipules triangular, ca. 1 mm, entire to erose. Flowers solitary at forks of branchlets or rarely along stems, subsessile or with pedicel to 1[–2] mm. Calyx with ovary portion subglobose, ca. 1 × 1–1.5 mm, densely papillose-villous with flattened trichomes; limb 1–1.2 mm, deeply lobed; lobes narrowly triangular. Corolla white or pale yellow, 3–8[–12] mm, glabrous outside, sparsely villous inside throat; lobes triangular-ovate, 1–2 mm, acute. Fruit compressed globose, 3–5 × 3–5 mm, densely villous with multicellular, transparent, flat-

tened, bulbous-tipped trichomes; seeds 0.3–0.5 mm. Fl. winter, fr. summer.

Wet sites in fields; sea level or higher. Guangdong, Hainan, Taiwan, Yunnan (Xishuangbanna) [India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; Australia, Oceania; adventive in North America (E United States, Mexico)].

The Fl. Taiwan (ed. 2, 4: 252. 1998) described markedly larger leaves, petioles, pedicels, and corollas than seen on specimens studied for this work or found in other descriptions; these measurements are included above provisionally in brackets. Two varieties were recognized by Xing and Wu (Fl. Nansha Islands, 200–201. 1996): *Dentella repens* var. *repens*, with flowers ca. 3 mm, and *D. repens* var. *grandis*, with flowers 6–8 mm; their description of the second variety corresponds to the larger flower measurements given in Fl. Taiwan. These varieties were subsequently synonymized by H. S. Lo (in FRPS 71(1): 21. 1999) and are provisionally synonymized here.

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