

1. NELSONIA R. Brown, Prodr. 480. 1810.

瘤子草属 liu zi cao shu

Hu Jiaqi (胡嘉琪 Hu Chia-chi), Deng Yunfei (邓云飞); Thomas F. Daniel

Herbs, pubescent, without cystoliths. Leaves opposite, shortly petiolate; leaf blade pinnately veined, margin entire. Inflorescences axillary or terminal spikes; bracts overlapping. Flowers \pm spirally arranged, sessile, subtended by a bract; bracteoles absent. Calyx 4-lobed to base; lobes unequal, anterior lobe apically 2-cleft. Corolla tube slender, sometimes widening into a throat; limb 2-lipped; lower lip 3-lobed, upper lip 2-lobed; lobes \pm equal, descending cochlear in bud. Stamens 2, included or slightly exerted; filaments basally pubescent; anthers 2-theous; thecae subspherical, mucous, opening at base by a pore that has a small flap; staminodes absent. Ovary with 8–28 ovules in 2–4 rows per locule; stigma usually unequally 2-lobed. Capsule conical; retinacula absent. Seeds subspherical, small, flattened on 1 face, lacking trichomes.

Five species or fewer: widely occurring in tropical Africa, Asia, Australia, and South America (introduced elsewhere); one species in China.

A single species, *Nelsonia canescens*, is sometimes recognized (e.g., A. B. M. E. Hossain, Willdenowia 14: 397–403. 1984), but Vollesen (e.g., K. Vollesen in J. H. Seyani & A. C. Chikuni, eds., Proceedings of the XIII Plenary Meeting of AETFAT, Zomba, Malawi, 2–11 Apr 1991, 315–325. 1994) presented arguments for recognizing up to five species.

1. *Nelsonia canescens* (Lamarck) Sprengel, Syst. Veg. 1: 42. 1824.

瘤子草 liu zi cao

Justicia canescens Lamarck, Tabl. Encycl. 1: 41. 1791.

Herbs 10–20 cm tall, annual, creeping, sprawling, prostrate, or decumbent. Stems subterete, villous, often rooting at nodes. Petiole 0.2–3(–4) cm, villous; leaf blade elliptic to ovate, 1–2.2 \times 0.4–1.2 cm but basal ones sometimes 6–12 \times 3.5–5 cm, both surfaces villous, secondary veins 3–7 on each side of midvein, base cuneate, margin entire, apex acute. Spikes 1.5–4 cm; bracts elliptic, 6–7.5 \times 3–4 mm, 5–7-veined. Calyx abaxial lobe ca. 2 \times 0.6 mm, apex 2-lobed; adaxial lobe ca. 3 \times 1 mm; lateral lobes ca. 2 \times 0.5 mm. Corolla bluish purple or white, externally glabrous; tube cylindric for ca. 1.5 mm, contracted near midpoint then expanded into throat; lower lip ca. 2.3 mm; upper lip ca. 2 mm. Stamens inserted at base of throat; filaments ca. 0.5 mm, glabrous. Ovary glabrous; ovules 4–8 per locule. Capsule ca. 5 \times 2 mm, 8–16-seeded. Seeds broadly ellipsoid, granulate. Fl. Oct–Mar, fr. Mar–May. $2n = 34 + \beta, 36$.

Wet places, open forests; 400–2000 m. Guangxi, Yunnan [Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam; Africa, Madagascar].

Fl. China 19: 371–372. 2011.