

68. PENTAS Bentham, Bot. Mag. 70: t. 4086. 1844.

五星花属 wu xing hua shu

Chen Tao (陈涛); Charlotte M. Taylor

Perennial herbs or subshrubs, unarmed. Raphides present. Leaves opposite or whorled, without domatia; stipules persistent, interpetiolar and sometimes fused to petioles, triangular to truncate, multifid or setaceous, with segments often gland-tipped. Inflorescences terminal, cymose, paniculate, or corymbiform, several to many flowered, subsessile to pedunculate, bracteate. Flowers subsessile, bisexual, distylous [or rarely tristylous]. Calyx limb deeply (4 or)5-lobed; lobes sometimes slightly to strongly unequal on an individual flower [sometimes with calycophylls]. Corolla white, pink, red, purple, or yellow, salverform to narrowly tubular with tube prolonged and usually expanded at throat, inside villous in throat; lobes (4 or)5(or 6), valvate in bud. Stamens (4 or)5(or 6), inserted in corolla just below throat, included in long-styled, mid-styled, and homostylous forms or exerted in short-styled form; filaments short to well developed; anthers dorsifixed. Ovary 2-celled, ovules numerous in each cell on axile placentas; stigmas 2, linear, included in short-styled and mid-styled forms or exerted in long-styled and monomorphic forms. Fruit capsular, subglobose to ovoid or obovoid with apex often elongated into conical beak, membranous or leathery, loculicidally dehiscent through apical portion, with calyx limb persistent; seeds numerous, small, angled to subglobose.

About 50 species: widespread in Africa and Madagascar, one species cultivated worldwide; one species (introduced) in China.

1. *Pentas lanceolata* (Forsskål) Deflers, Voy. Yemen, 142. 1889.

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Ophiorrhiza lanceolata Forsskål, Fl. Aegypt.-Arab. 42. 1775; *Pentas carnea* Bentham.

Subshrubs, 30–70 cm tall; branches quadrangular, moderately to densely pilosulous to villous often becoming glabrescent with age. Leaves opposite; petiole 0.5–3 cm, pilosulous to villous; blade drying papery, oblong-lanceolate to ovate, 5–14 × 2–5.5 cm, adaxially scabrous or villous to glabrescent, abaxially densely villous or hirtellous at least along principal veins, base cuneate to obtuse, apex acute or shortly acuminate; secondary veins 8–10 pairs; stipules truncate to broadly rounded, 1.5–2 mm, villous, bristles 1–5, 1–4 mm. Inflorescence densely pilosulous to villous; peduncle 3–12 mm; branched portion congested-cymose often becoming lax, 1.5–4 × 1.5–4 cm; bracts narrowly triangular to linear, 0.5–1.5 mm. Flowers sessile or subsessile, distylous. Calyx densely hirtellous or villous; ovary portion subglobose to obovoid, ca. 1 mm; limb deeply lobed; lobes narrowly oblanceolate to elliptic or narrowly spatulate, 2–8 mm, usually unequal on an individual flower with nearly this entire size range found on some flowers, acute. Corolla pale purple to pink, red, white, or yellow, salverform, sparsely hirtellous to glabrescent outside; tube slender except rather abruptly swollen in throat in long-styled form (around stamens), 17–20 mm, densely barbate in throat; lobes elliptic or oblong-lanceolate, 3–4 mm, acute to obtuse. Capsules obovoid, 4–6 × 4–6 mm, stiffly papery to woody, with beak 1–2 mm tall; seeds 0.5–1 mm. Fl. Jul–Sep.

Cultivated in gardens in S China; sea level to 1500 m. Fujian, Guangdong [native to Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda); commonly cultivated worldwide].

Cultivated plants of *Pentas lanceolata* are usually all long-styled and usually do not set fruit. They are variable in flower color, and new varieties and colors continue to be developed.

Fl. China 19: 290. 2011.