

8. **NECHAMANDRA** Planchon, Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot., sér. 3, 11: 78. 1849.

虾子草属 xia zi cao shu

Herbs, submerged. Stems elongated, slender, much branched. Leaves alternate but usually opposite at base, densely crowded toward ends of stems, linear, lacking a prominent midvein, parallel veins present, slightly sheathing at base, margin minutely serrulate with teeth. Plants dioecious; flowers unisexual. Male inflorescence pedunculate, many flowered; spathe ovate, membranous, bifid at apex; male flowers minute; sepals 3, petaloid, white, ovate; petals 3, small, subequal to sepals; stamens 2 or 3, opposite to sepals; filaments slender, very short. Female spathe oblong, 1-flowered; female flowers similar to male ones; ovary oblong, elongated into a beak at apex; styles 3. Fruit ovoid-oblong or linear. Seeds numerous, oblong, minute.

One species: S and SE Asia.

1. **Nechamandra alternifolia** (Roxburgh ex R. Wight) Thwaites, Enum. Pl. Zeyl. 332. 1864.

虾子草 xia zi cao

Vallisneria alternifolia Roxburgh ex R. Wight, Bot. Misc. 2: 344. 1831; *Lagarosiphon alternifolius* (Roxburgh ex R. Wight) Druce; *L. roxburghii* (Planchon) Bentham; *Nechamandra roxburghii* Planchon.

Leaves 2–7 cm × 1–1.5 mm, midvein slightly distinct,

apex acute. Male inflorescence with 60–100 flowers; peduncle translucent; spathe translucent, ca. 5 × 4 mm; male flowers with slender pedicel ca. 0.6 mm; sepals transparent; filaments ca. 0.3 mm. Female spathe tubular, ca. 5 mm, sessile; sepals 0.5–1 × 0.4–0.7 mm; ovary 5–10 mm, flattened, margin serrulate on each side; styles retuse at apex, densely papillate. Fl. and fr. Sep–Oct. $2n = 14$.

Ponds, lakes, slow-moving rivers and channels. Guangdong, Guangxi [Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam].

Fl. China 23: 100. 2010.