

## 15. CALLISIA Loefling, Iter Hispan. 305. 1758.

洋竹草属 yang zhu cao shu

Herbs perennial. Rhizomes absent. Stems creeping or decumbent proximally. Leaves distichous or spirally arranged. Cincinni terminal and/or axillary, paired or aggregated, less often solitary; involucral bracts not spathelike; pedicels very short. Flowers actinomorphic. Sepals 2 or 3, free. Petals 2 or 3, free, lanceolate. Stamens (1–3 or)6, all fertile, very rarely 1 or more becoming staminodes, subequal; filaments usually glabrous; anther locules rounded, longitudinally dehiscent, connectives broad and square, triangular, or oblong, rarely narrow. Ovary oblong, subtrigonous, 2- or 3-loculed; ovules 2 per locule. Capsule 2- or 3-valved. Seeds (1 or)2 or 3 per valve, shortly cylindric, trigonous, rugose or radiate striate; hilum orbicular, minute.

About 20 species: America; one species (introduced) in China.

### 1. *Callisia repens* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl., ed. 2, 1: 62. 1762.

洋竹草 yang zhu cao

Herbs perennial. Stems prostrate, forming mats, much branched, rooting at nodes. Leaves distichous, gradually becoming smaller distally along flowering shoots; leaf blade ovate to lanceolate, 1–4 × 0.6–1.2 cm, glabrous except for scabrid margin and apex, base clasping, subcordate or obtuse, apex acuminate. Inflorescence of paired (sometimes solitary), sessile, dense cincinni in axils of distal leaves. Flowers bisexual or male. Sepals green, linear-oblong, 3–4 mm, hirsute along midvein, margin scarious. Petals white, lanceolate, 3–6 mm. Stamens 3; filaments long exserted; connectives broadly deltoid. Ovary oblong, subtrigonous, 2-located, apex pilose; ovules 2 per locule. Style filiform, long; stigma penicillate. Capsule oblong, ca. 1.5 mm, 2-valved. Seeds 2 per valve, brown, ca. 1 mm, rugose.  $2n = 12$ .

Naturalized on roofs of houses. Hong Kong [native to America, from S United States to Argentina].

