

**2. HOUTTUYNIA** Thunberg, Kongl. Vetensk. Acad. Nya Handl. 4: 149. 1783, nom. cons.  
蕺菜属 ji cai shu

*Polypara* Loureiro.

Herbs erect or ascending, rhizomatous. Stems longitudinally ridged and sulcate. Leaves entire; stipules membranous; petioles shorter than leaf blades. Inflorescence a terminal or leaf-opposed spike, with 4, rarely 6 or 8, white, petal-like involucral bracts at base. Flowers white when mature, small. Stamens 3, rarely 4, longer than styles; filaments ca. 3 × as long as anthers, basal part connate to ovary; anthers oblong. Pistils 3, 3-carpelled; carpels partly connate; ovary semi-inferior (flowers perigynous), 1-loculed; placentae 3, each with 6–9 ovules; styles 3, recurved. Capsule subglobose, dehiscent at apex.

One species: E and S Asia.

**1. *Houttuynia cordata*** Thunberg, Kongl. Vetensk. Acad. Nya Handl. 4: 149, 151. 1783.

蕺菜 ji cai

*Polypara cochinchinensis* Loureiro; *P. cordata* Kuntze.

Herbs (5–)30–60 cm high; rhizomes creeping, thin. Basal part of stems creeping, rooted in whorls at nodes, apical part erect, glabrous or pubescent on nodes, sometimes purplish red. Stipular sheath (0.5–)1–2.5 cm, 1/4–1/2 as long as petiole, usually ciliate, base enlarged and slightly clasping; petiole (0.7–) 1–3.5(–4) cm, glabrous; leaf blade broadly ovate or ovate-cordate, (1.5–)4–10 × (1.8–)2.5–6 cm, thinly papery, densely glandular, usually glabrous, sometimes pubescent at vein axils, usually purplish abaxially, base cordate, apex shortly acuminate; veins 5–7, basal or innermost pair arising ca. 5 mm above base, if 7-veined, then outermost pair very slender or inconspicuous; reticulate veins ± conspicuous. Inflorescences (0.4–) 1.5–2.5(–2.7) cm × (2–)5–6 mm; peduncles 1.5–3 cm, subglabrous; involucral bracts oblong or obovate, (5–)10–15 × (3–)5–7 mm, apex rounded. Bract beneath each flower linear, terete, inconspicuous. Stamens longer than ovary. Capsule 2–3 mm, with persistent styles. Fl. Apr–Sep, fr. Jun–Oct.  $2n = 24^*$ , 96.

Ravines, streamsides, forests, wet meadows, slopes, thicket and field margins, trailsides, roadsides, ditch banks; near sea level to 2500 m. Anhui, Fujian, Gansu, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Xizang, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Bhutan, India, Indonesia (?Java), Japan (including Ryukyu Islands), Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Sikkim, Thailand].

Leaves used medicinally; shoots eaten as a vegetable.

