

1. SAURURUS Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 341. 1753.

三白草属 san bai cao shu

Saururopsis Turczaninow.

Herbs erect or ascending, rhizomatous. Stems longitudinally ridged and sulcate. Leaves entire; stipules membranous; petioles shorter than leaf blades. Inflorescence a raceme, opposite leaves or terminal. Flowers white when mature, small. Stamens usually 6, sometimes 8, rarely 3, longer than styles; filaments ca. as long as or slightly longer than anthers; anthers oblong. Pistils 4, 3- or 4-carpelled, with carpels distinct or connate at base; ovary superior; ovules 2–4 per carpel; styles 4, recurved. Fruit a schizocarp; mericarps 3 or 4, indehiscent. Seed 1 per mericarp.

Two species: E Asia, North America; one species in China.

1. *Saururus chinensis* (Loureiro) Baillon, Adansonia 10(2): 71. 1871.

三白草 san bai cao

Spathium chinense Loureiro, Fl. Cochinch. 217. 1790; *Saururopsis chinensis* (Loureiro) Turczaninow; *S. cumingii* C. de Candolle; *Saururus cernuus* Thunberg (1784), not Linnaeus (1753); *S. loureiri* Decaisne.

Herbs to more than 1 m high; rhizomes creeping, white, thick. Stems strong, basal part creeping and usually whitish, apical part erect and green. Stipular sheath 2–10 mm, ca. as long as petiole, slightly clasping; petiole 1–3 cm, glabrous; leaf blade ovate to ovate-lanceolate, (4–)10–20 × (2–)5–10 cm, papery, densely glandular, glabrous, base cordate or oblique-cordate, apex acute or acuminate; veins 5–7, basal, if 7-veined, outermost pair slender, ascending and then arched and combined; reticulate veins conspicuous. Apical leaves smaller, 2 or 3 at stem apex, usually petal-like, white at anthesis. Inflorescence an elongated, axillary or terminal raceme, (3–)12–20 (–22) cm; peduncles 0.5–4.5 cm, glabrous; rachis densely pubescent. Bract beneath each flower spatulate, basal part linear and pilose, apical part orbicular and glabrous or sparsely ciliate, small, apex rounded to acute. Filaments slightly longer than anthers. Fruit subglobose, ca. 3 mm in diam., tuberculate. Fl. Apr–Jun, fr. Jun–Jul. $2n = 22^*$.

Wet places, ditches, meadows, riverbanks, streamsides, forests, thickets, roadsides, field margins; near sea level to 1700 m. Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shandong, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [India, Japan (including Ryukyu Islands), Korea, Philippines, Vietnam].

Type from Guangzhou, Guangdong.

Rhizomes and flowers used medicinally.

