

29. CORNULACA Delile, Descr. Egypte, Hist. Nat. 206. 1813–1814.

单刺蓬属 dan ci peng shu

Herbs annual or small shrubs. Stem and branches stout, not jointed. Leaves sessile, alternate, subulate or acicular, base expanded, apex pellucid; leaf axils fascicular villous. Flowers solitary or clustered in leaf axils, minute, bisexual, with 2 bractlets. Perianth segments 5, free or fused, apex with a free, membranous lobe; fruiting perianth enlarged, hardened, and bearing an acicular appendage abaxially, forming a narrowly conic spine, apex of segment remaining unchanged, persistent at junction of perianth and spine. Disk present or absent. Stamens up to 5; anthers narrowly oblong, appendage obscure or absent. Ovary ovoid; stigmas 2, filiform. Utricle enclosed in enlarged perianth, ovoid, slightly compressed; pericarp membranous, adnate to seed. Seed vertical; testa membranous; embryo conic-spiral; perisperm absent.

About six species: NW Africa (Egypt), SW Asia (Syria, Iran, Caspian region), China; one species (endemic) in China.

1. *Cornulaca alaschanica* C. P. Tsien & G. L. Chu, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 16(1): 122. 1978.

阿拉善单刺蓬 a la shan dan ci peng

Herbs annual, 15–20 cm, pyramidal. Root pallid, usually curved, slender, terete. Stem erect, densely branched, slightly lustrous, terete, ribbed above, smooth; branches alternate, obliquely or subhorizontally spreading; lower branches 3–6 cm, with numerous branchlets; upper branches gradually becoming shorter and without branchlets. Leaves slightly spreading, yellow-green, acicular, straight or somewhat arcuate, 5–8 mm, glabrous, base ovate-triangular or broadly expanded ovate, mar-

gin membranous. Flowers 2- or 3-clustered, or solitary; bractlets navicular, apex with a spine 2–4 mm. Perianth segment apex white, narrowly triangular, ca. 0.4 mm; perianth conic spine ca. 6.5 mm. Stamens 5; anthers ca. 0.5 mm, apex obscurely appendaged, anther sacs free in basal 1/5. Ovary minute; style filiform; stigmas exerted. Utricle 1–1.2 mm.

• Inter-dunes, margins of dune fields, alluvial fans. Gansu (Minqin), W Nei Mongol (Alxa Zuoqi).

The protologue cited the holotype from Alxa Zuoqi in “Ningxia,” although that locality is some 20 km to the west in Nei Mongol.

