

31. HALOXYLON Bunge, Mém. Acad. Imp. Sci. St.-Pétersbourg Divers Savans 7: 468. 1851.

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Shrubs or trees, glabrous, or cottony in leaf axils. Stem erect, much branched; older branches terete, annual ones green or blue-green, pointed. Leaves opposite, reduced to scales or nearly absent, bases united, apex obtuse or with a short awn. Flowers solitary in leaf axils, bisexual, with 2 bractlets. Perianth segments 5, free, papery or dry membranous, abaxially with a distal, transverse wing in fruit, adaxially concave, base usually arachnoid; wing horizontal, membranous, longitudinally veined. Disk cupular. Stamens 5, inserted on disk; anthers elliptic, without an appendage. Ovary base sunken into disk; style very short; stigmas 2-5. Utricle hemispheric, apically slightly concave; pericarp fleshy, adnate to seed. Seed horizontal; embryo green, spiral; perisperm absent.

About 11 species: from the Mediterranean region to C Asia; two species in China.

- 1a. Leaves appressed to stem, triangular, apex awned ..... 1. *H. persicum*
- 1b. Leaves slightly spreading, broadly triangular, apex awnless ..... 2. *H. ammodendron*

1. **Haloxylon persicum** Bunge ex Boissier & Buhse in Nouv. Mém. Soc. Imp. Naturalistes Moscou 12: 189. 1860.

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*Arthrophytum acutifolium* (Minkwitz) Minkwitz; *A. ammodendron* (C. A. Meyer) Litvinov var. *acutifolium* Minkwitz; *A. persicum* (Bunge) Savicz-Ryczegorski.

*Anabasis ammodendron* C. A. Meyer in Ledebour, Fl. Altaic. 1: 375. 1829; *Arthrophytum ammodendron* (C. A. Meyer) Litvinov; *A. ammodendron* var. *aphyllum* Minkwitz; *Haloxylon aphyllum* (Minkwitz) Iljin.

Trees small, 1-7 m tall. Bark gray-white; wood hard, brittle; older branches gray-brown or light yellow-brown, usually fissured annular; annual branches pendulous, internodes 0.5-1.5 cm x ca. 1.5 mm. Leaves appressed to branch, scale-like, triangular, apex awned; leaf axil cottony. Flowers borne on dwarf, lateral spurs of previous year's branches; bractlets navicular, ovate, equaling perianth, margin membranous. Perianth segments ovate, apex obtuse or subacute; abaxial wing borne 1/4 of distance from apex, light yellow, flabellate or suborbicular, 4-7 mm wide, obscurely veined, base broadly cuneate to rounded, margin repand or subentire. Disk obscure. Utricle light yellow-brown; pericarp not adnate to seed. Seed ca. 2.5 mm in diam.; embryo spiral, abaxially convex, turbinate, adaxially plane. Fl. May-Jun, fr. Sep-Oct.

Trees small, 1-9 m tall. Trunk to 50 cm in diam. at ground level; bark gray-white; wood hard, brittle; older branches gray-brown or light yellow-brown, usually fissured annular; annual branches obliquely spreading or pendulous, long, thin, internodes 0.4-1.2 cm x ca. 1.5 mm. Leaves slightly spreading, scale-like, broadly triangular, apex obtuse, awnless; leaf axil cottony. Flowers borne on dwarf, lateral spurs of previous year's branches; bractlets navicular, broadly ovate, nearly equaling perianth, margin membranous. Perianth segments oblong, portion above abaxial wing slightly incurved, surrounding utricule, apex obtuse; abaxial wing borne ca. 1/3 of distance from apex, obliquely spreading or horizontal, kidney-shaped to suborbicular, 5-8 mm wide, base cordate to cuneate, margin undulate or erose. Disk obscure. Utricle yellow-brown; pericarp not adnate to seed. Seed black, ca. 2.5 mm in diam.; embryo dark green, spiral, abaxially convex, turbinate, adaxially plane. Fl. May-Jul, fr. Sep-Oct.

Dunes. N Xinjiang [NE Africa, SC and SW Asia].

This species is very useful for sand-binding and afforestation. It has been introduced to sand areas of Gansu, Nei Mongol, and Ningxia for this purpose.

Dunes, saline-alkaline deserts, sandy places on riversides. W Gansu, Nei Mongol, NW Ningxia, N Qinghai, Xinjiang [Mongolia; C Asia].

2. **Haloxylon ammodendron** (C. A. Meyer) Bunge in Ledebour, Fl. Ross. 3: 820. 1851.

*Flora of China* 5: 395-396. 2003.