

**16. THYLACOSPERMUM** Fenzl in Endlicher, Gen. Pl. 967. 1840.

囊种草属 nang zhong cao shu

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Cushion shrubs, perennial. Taproot woody. Stems densely caespitose, becoming woody when old. Leaves densely imbricate, sessile, small; leaf blade ovate, small; stipules absent. Inflorescence a solitary flower in terminal leaf axil. Flower 5(or 4)-merous. Pedicel nearly absent. Sepals connate below middle, tube obconic. Petals entire. Stamens ca. 2 × as many as sepals; filaments glandular at base, inserted at disc edges. Ovary 1-loculed with several ovules; styles 3(or 2), linear. Fruit a capsule, globose, leathery, 6(or 4)-toothed, several seeded. Seeds reniform, large; testa spongy, ± smooth.

One species: C Asia, W China, Himalayas.

**1. *Thylacospermum caespitosum*** (Cambessèdes) Schischkin, Sched. Herb. Fl. Ross. 9: 90. 1932.

囊种草 nang zhong cao

*Periandra caespitosa* Cambessèdes, Voy. Inde: 27.

1836; *Arenaria caespitosa* (Cambessèdes)

Kozhevnikov; *A. rupifraga* (Karelin & Kirilov) Fenzl ex Ledebour; *Bryomorpha rupifraga* Karelin & Kirilov; *Thylacospermum rupifragum* (Karelin & Kirilov)

Schrenk.

Cushions ± semiglobose to nearly mat-forming, glabrous, 30–50 cm in diam. Stems very densely branched, 2–6 cm tall. Leaf blade ovate-lanceolate, 2–4 × ca. 2 mm, rigid, glossy, base joined to sheath, margin ciliate, apex mucronate. Flowers ca. 4 mm in diam. Sepals green, lanceolate, ca. 2.5 × 1 mm, 3-veined, apex obtuse or acuminate. Petals ovate-oblong, margin entire. Disc yellow, orbicular, fleshy. Stamens shorter than sepals. Capsule glossy yellow, globose, 2.5–3 mm. Seed light brown, ca. 1.5 mm. Fl. Jun–Jul, fr. Jul–Aug.

Exposed level or gently sloping stony areas, often in rock crevices; (3600–)4300–6000 m. Gansu, Qinghai, Sichuan, Xinjiang, Xizang [NW India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Sikkim].

This is one of the most prominent high-alpine cushion plants.

