

**153. ALHAGI** Gagnebin, *Acta Helv. Phys.-Math.* 2: 59. 1755.

骆驼刺属 *luo tuo ci shu*

Xu Langran (徐朗然 Xu Lang-rang); Kai Larsen

Subshrubs [or perennial herbs]. Stipules subulate. Leaves alternate, 1-foliolate; leaf blade margin entire. Racemes axillary, with bracts and bracteoles. Calyx campanulate; teeth 5, subequal. Corolla red to purple. Stamens diadelphous (9+1); anthers uniform. Ovary with many ovules; stigma capitate. Legume articulate and moniliform, indehiscent.

About five species: C Asia to Mongolia, China, and Nepal, Mediterranean region including N Africa; one species in China.

This genus contains good foliage plants and sand-fixing plants. Sugar secreted on the leaves can be used medicinally for treating headaches.

**1. *Alhagi sparsifolia*** Shaparenko ex Keller & Shaparenko, *Sovetsk. Bot.* 3–4: 167. 1993.

骆驼刺 *luo tuo ci*

Subshrubs, 25–50 cm tall. Stems erect, caespitose. Stipules subulate, ca. 1 mm. Leaves subsessile; leaflet blade ovate, obovate, or obovate-orbicular to elliptic, 8–15 × 6–10 mm, glabrous, base cuneate, apex rounded to slightly acute. Racemes lax, 3–8-flowered; peduncle ligneous; rachis hardened, terminating in a strong spine; bracts subulate, ca. 1 mm. Pedicel 1–3 mm; bracteoles 2, at base of calyx. Calyx campanulate, 4–5 mm, pubescent; teeth triangular to subulate-triangular, 1/4–1/3

as long as tube. Corolla reddish purple; standard narrowly obovate, 8–9 mm; wings ca. 3/4 as long as standard; keel subequaling standard. Ovary sessile, glabrous. Legume straight to slightly curved, 1.2–2.5 cm, glabrous. Fl. Jun–Jul, fr. Jul–Aug.  $2n = 16$ .

Desert plains, low hills; 100–700 m. C and N Gansu, W Nei Mongol, E Qinghai, E Xinjiang [Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, W Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan].

The calyx teeth are variable, even on the same plant; therefore, it is difficult to distinguish from other species westward in neighboring countries.

