

### 31. **MERCURIALIS** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 1035. 1753.

山靛属 shan dian shu

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Herbs, mostly dioecious, monoecious in Flora area, with slender rhizomes. Leaves opposite; stipules small; leaf blade venation pinnate. Male inflorescence axillary, unbranched, flowers in clusters, usually widely spaced; pedicel very short. Male flowers: calyx lobes 3, valvate, closed in bud, membranous; petals absent; disk absent; stamens 8–20; filaments free; anthers 2-locular, anther-thecae pendulous, base distinct; pistillode absent. Female flowers axillary, solitary or in few-flowered spikes, sometimes with male flowers; sepals 3, imbricate; petals absent; disk segments 2, subulate; ovary 2-locular; styles 2, short, simple, free or basally connate, papillose. Fruit a capsule, 2-lobed. Seeds ovoid or globose, carunculate.

About eight species: Europe and Mediterranean Africa, temperate and subtropical regions in E Asia; one species in China.

**1. *Mercurialis leiocarpa*** Siebold & Zuccarini, Abh. Math.-Phys. Cl. Königl. Bayer. Akad. Wiss. 4(2): 145. 1845.

山靛 shan dian

*Mercurialis leiocarpa* var. *transmorrisonensis* (Hayata) H. Keng; *M. leiocarpa* var. *trichocarpa* W. T. Wang; *M. transmorrisonensis* Hayata.

Perennial herbs, 0.3–1 m tall, monoecious. Stem simple, glabrous. Stipules ca. 2.5 mm, reflexed; petiole 1.5–4.5 cm; leaf blade oblong-ovate or ovate-lanceolate, 3–13 × 2–5.5 cm, membranous, adaxially pilose, base obtuse or cuneate, margin crenate, apex acuminate. Male inflorescences unbranched, 5–12

cm, glabrous; bracts ovate, ca. 1.5 mm, widely spaced. Male flowers 5–11 per bract; pedicel ca. 0.5 mm; calyx lobes 3, ovate, ca. 2 mm; stamens 12–20; filaments ca. 2 mm. Female inflorescences unbranched, 3–9 cm. Female flowers 3–5 per bract, often together with a few male flowers; pedicel 1–2 mm; sepals 3, ovate, ca. 2 mm; disk glands 2, subulate, ca. 2 mm; ovary subglobose, abaxially 2–4-muricate or sparsely setulose; style 2, ca. 1 mm. Capsule 5–6 mm in diam., lobes abaxially 2–4-muricate or verruculose. Seeds globose, ca. 2.5 mm in diam., foveolate. Fl. Dec–Apr, fr. Apr–Jul.

Mountain slopes or valleys, forests; 300–2800 m. Anhui, N Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Bhutan, NE India, Japan, Korea, Nepal, N Thailand].

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