

43. AMMI Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 243. 1753.

阿米芹属 a mi qin shu

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Visnaga Gaertner.

Herbs, annual or biennial, glabrous. Stem erect, terete, branching. Leaves petiolate, sheath narrow; blade ternate-pinnate or pinnatisect, membranous; ultimate segments filiform to lanceolate. Umbels compound, terminal and lateral; bracts numerous, entire or pinnately divided, reflexed in fruit; bracteoles many, entire. Calyx teeth obsolete or inconspicuous, minute. Petals white or yellowish, obcordate or deeply 2-lobed, lobes unequal, base tapering, clawed, apex inflexed, outer petals in outer flowers radiant. Stylopodium low-conic, base slightly undulate; styles slender, more than twice as long as stylopodium, reflexed. Fruit ovoid or ovoid-oblong, slightly compressed laterally, commissure constricted, mericarps pentagonal in cross section, glabrous; ribs 5, acute; vittae 1 in each furrow, 2 on commissure. Seed face plane. Carpophore entire or 2-cleft to base.

About six species: Mediterranean region; cultivated elsewhere; two species (introduced) in China.

- 1a. Biennial; ultimate leaf segments 0.5–1 mm; rays in fruiting umbel becoming erect, rigid and tightly constricted on discoid torus 1. *A. visnaga*
- 1b. Annual; ultimate leaf segments 5–20 mm; rays in fruiting umbel divergent, not so thickened, only slightly constricted, not on a discoid torus 2. *A. majus*

1. **Ammi visnaga** (Linnaeus) Lamarck, Fl. Franç. 3: 462. 1779.

阿米芹 a mi qin

Daucus visnaga Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 242. 1753.

Plants biennial, ca. 1 m. Basal leaves petiolate, petioles ca. 10 cm; blade pinnate; ultimate segments slender, linear, 20–30 × 0.5–1 mm, entire, divergent, apex setaceous. Upper leaves 2–3-pinnate. Umbels 6–10 cm across; peduncles elongate, 6–20 cm; bracts many, 1–2-pinnate, equaling or longer than rays; rays 60–100(–150), slender, 2–5 cm, unequal, spreading when young, in fruit becoming thick, rigid, erect and constricted on discoid torus (thickened base of rays); bracteoles numerous, subulate, 3–10 mm, entire, equaling flowers; umbellules many-flowered; pedicels 1.5–10 mm, base thickening in fruit into a discoid torus similar to rays. Calyx teeth inconspicuous, minute, ca. 0.2 mm. Petals white. Fruit 2–2.5 × 1–1.5 mm. Carpophore entire. Fl. Jun–Jul, fr. Jul–Aug.

Cultivated in some specialist gardens and medicinal farms, adventive in alkaline grasslands and on dry mountain slopes; below 500 m. Provincial distribution unknown [native to the Mediterranean region].

This species has reputed medicinal value.

2. **Ammi majus** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 243. 1753.

大阿米芹 da a mi qin

Plants annual, 20–100(–150) cm. Basal leaves petiolate, petiole 3–13 cm; blade ternate-3-pinnate; lateral ultimate segments narrowly elliptic, terminal segments obovate-elliptic, 10–15 × 5–20 mm, base cuneate, margin finely setaceous-serrate, apex obtuse or acute, gray-green. Cauline leaves 2-pinnate; ultimate segments ovate or oblong, distally narrowly lanceolate, entire or 3-lobed. Umbels 4–10 cm across; peduncles 8–14 cm; bracts numerous, 3-lobed, pinnate or entire, longer than rays; rays 20–50(–60), 2–8 cm, slender, inner faces hispid, spreading when young, in fruit becoming slightly constricted; bracteoles numerous, linear-acuminate or linear-lanceolate, 2–6 mm, spreading or reflexed; umbellules many-flowered; pedicels 1.5–7 mm, very thin, unequal. Fruit oblong, 1.5–2 × 0.6–1 mm. Carpophore 2-cleft to base. Fl. Jun–Jul, fr. Jul–Aug.

Cultivated in some medicinal farms, adventive in ruderal areas, wasteland, or along roads; below 200 m. Provincial distribution unknown [native to the Mediterranean region].

