

39. *CICUTA* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 255. 1753.

毒芹属 du qin shu

She Menglan (余孟兰 Sheh Meng-lan); Mark F. Watson

Herbs, perennial, stout, glabrous. Rootstock swollen, with transverse air chambers, roots fascicled. Stems tall, erect, hollow, branched above, striate. Leaves petiolate, sheath narrow, clasping, membranous; leaf blade (1-)2-3-pinnate; ultimate segments narrow, linear-lanceolate or lanceolate, serrate or dentate. Umbels compound, lax, terminal or lateral; bracts absent or few, inconspicuous; rays numerous, long, slender, ascending-spreading; bracteoles numerous, narrow, longer or shorter than the flowers. Calyx teeth conspicuous, ovate-triangular. Petals white or greenish-white, obovate or suborbicular, apex narrow, inflexed. Stylopodium depressed; styles slender, reflexed when mature. Fruit ovoid-globose, rounded at both ends or base cordate, flattened laterally, glabrous; ribs 5, thick, corky; vittae 1 in each furrow, 2 on commissure. Seed face plane or slightly concave. Carpophore 2-fid.

About three species: N temperate zone; one species in China.

1. *Cicuta virosa* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 255. 1753.

毒芹 du qin

Plants 70-120 cm. Rootstock 2-4 cm thick, surface tawny, yellow within, exudes yellow sap when cut. Stem solitary, sometimes purplish-tinged. Basal leaves petiolate, petioles 15-30 cm; blade triangular or ovate-triangular, 12-30 x 10-25 cm; pinnae 3-lobed or pinnatifid; ultimate segments linear-lanceolate or lanceolate, 1.5-6 x 0.3-1 cm, serrate to sharply serrate. Upper leaves 1-2-pinnate; ultimate segments narrowly lanceolate, 1-2.5 x 0.2-0.5 cm. Umbels 5-15 cm across; peduncles 2.5-20 cm; bracts absent or 1, linear, ca. 8 mm; rays 6-25, 2-6 cm, subequal, slender; bracteoles numerous, linear-lanceolate, 3-5 x 0.5-0.9 mm, almost as long as flowers, rarely longer; umbellules 15-35-flowered; pedicels 4-8 mm. Calyx teeth 0.3-0.5 mm, unequal. Petals ca. 1.2 x 1 mm. Fruit 2-3.5 x 1.8-3 mm. Fl. and fr. Jul-Sep.

Forest margins, marshy areas, bogs, streamsides, often emergent in shallow water; 300-3300 m. Gansu, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Sichuan, Xinjiang, Yunnan [Japan, Kashmir, Korea, Mongolia, Russia; Europe].

- 1a. Ultimate leaf segments linear-lanceolate or narrowly lanceolate, 1.5-6 x 0.3-1 cm 1a. var. *virosa*
- 1b. Ultimate leaf segments long-elliptic or ovate, 5-10 x 2-4 cm 1b. var. *latisecta*

1a. *Cicuta virosa* var. *virosa*

毒芹(原变种) du qin (yuan bian zhong)

Cicuta virosa f. *longiinvolutellata* Y. C. Chu.

Ultimate segments of leaves linear-lanceolate or narrowly lanceolate. Seed face slightly concave.

Forest margins, marshy areas, bogs, streamsides, often emergent in shallow water; 400-3300 m. Gansu, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Xinjiang, Yunnan [Japan, Kashmir, Korea, Mongolia, Russia; Europe].

All parts are highly toxic, especially the rootstock; nevertheless, the plant has reputed medicinal value.

1b. *Cicuta virosa* var. *latisecta* Čelakovský, Prodr. Fl. Böhmen 3: 563. 1875.

宽叶毒芹 kuan ye du qin

Cicuta nipponica Franchet.

Ultimate segments of leaves long-elliptic or elliptic-ovate, 5-10 x 2-4 cm, base cuneate, irregularly serrulate, apex acuminate. Seed face plane.

Marshy places; 300-500 m. Jilin, Shanxi [Japan, SE Russia].

