

9. OSMORHIZA Rafinesque, Amer. Monthly Mag. & Crit. Rev. 4: 192. 1819, nom. cons.

香根芹属 xiang gen qin shu

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*Uraspermum* Nuttall, nom. rej.

Herbs perennial. Stem erect or decumbent at base, branched, glabrous or pubescent. Petiole sheath narrow, scarious; leaf blade triangular-ovate in outline, 2–3-ternate-pinnate (Chinese species); segments serrate to pinnatifid. Umbels loosely compound; peduncles terminal and lateral, usually exceeding the leaves; bracts few or absent; rays few, slender, unequal, lengthening and spreading in fruit; bracteoles several or occasionally absent, reflexed. Calyx teeth obsolete. Petals white, purple or greenish yellow, spatulate to obovate with a narrow inflexed apex. Stylopodium conic; styles slender, sometimes minute. Fruit (Chinese species) narrowly clavate, terete to slightly laterally flattened, apex obtuse, base caudate; ribs filiform, acute, with apically pointed bristles; vittae obscure or absent. Seed subterete in cross section, face concave. Carpophore bifid at apex, cleft up to 1/2 of its length.

About ten species: disjunct between E Asia and North America; one species in China.

1. *Osmorhiza aristata* (Thunberg) Rydberg, Bot. Surv. Nebraska 3: 37. 1894.

香根芹 xiang gen qin

Plants 25–70 cm high. Taproot aromatic. Stem green or purplish tinged. Basal leaves petiolate; petiole 5–26 cm; blade to 29 × 25 cm; pinnae 2–4 pairs, ultimate segments ovate to ovate-lanceolate, (0.5–)1–6(–9) × (0.2–)0.5–5(–8) cm, both surfaces hispid or pilose with white hairs, hairs sometimes restricted to veins. Peduncles 4–22 cm; bracts 1–4, subulate to linear, 0.5–1.2 cm, caducous; rays 3–5, 2–5 cm, lengthening in fruit to 10 cm; bracteoles 4–5, lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, 2–5 × 1–1.5 mm, abaxially pubescent and on margin, usually reflexed. Fertile flowers 1–6 in each umbellule. Petals obovate, ca. 1.2 × 1 mm. Styles slightly longer than the stylopodium. Ovary white pubescent. Fruit 1–2.2 × 0.2–0.25 cm, base caudate; ribs sparsely bristly, densest towards the base. Fl. and fr. May–Jul.

Forests, grassy places in valleys and on stream banks; 200–3500 m. Widely distributed in China [Bhutan, N India, Japan, Kashmir, Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia (Siberia); North America].

A broad range of morphological variation can be seen within this species. Taxonomic treatments vary, with some authors recognizing several distinct taxa, whereas others consider this as continuous variation within one undivided species.

- 1a. Leaf segments ovate-oblong, the basal pair undivided usually deeply dentate ..... 1a. var. *aristata*
- 1b. Leaf segments broadly ovate to broadly oblong-ovate, the basal pair 2-lobed or deeply 2–3-parted, usually irregularly coarsely toothed ..... 1b. var. *laxa*

1a. *Osmorhiza aristata* var. *aristata*

香根芹(原变种) xiang gen qin (yuan bian zhong)

*Chaerophyllum aristatum* Thunberg in Murray, Syst. Veg., ed. 14, 288. 1784; *Chaerophyllum claytonii* (Michaux) Persoon; *Myrrhis aristata* (Thunberg) Sprengel; *M. claytonii* Michaux; *Osmorhiza amurensis* F. Schmidt ex Maximowicz; *O. aristata* var. *montana* Makino; *O. claytonii* (Michaux) C. B. Clarke; *O. japonica* Siebold & Zuccarini; *Scandix aristata* (Thunberg) Makino; *S. claytonii* (Michaux) Koso-Poljanski; *Uraspermum aristatum* (Thunberg) Kuntze; *Washingtonia claytonii* (Michaux) Britton.

Leaf segments ovate-oblong, acute or obtuse, the basal pair undivided, usually deep-dentate.

Forests on mountain slopes, grassy places on stream banks; 200–1200 m. Widely distributed from NE to S China; also in S Gansu and S Shaanxi [Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Russia (Siberia); North America].

1b. *Osmorhiza aristata* var. *laxa* (Royle) Constance & R. H. Shan, Univ. Calif. Publ. Bot. 23: 130. 1948.

疏叶香根芹 shu ye xiang gen qin

*Osmorhiza laxa* Royle, Ill. Bot. Himal. Mts. 233. 1839; *Washingtonia laxa* (Royle) Koso-Poljanski ex B. Fedtschenko.

Leaf segments broad-ovate or broadly long-ovate, acuminate, the basal pair bilobed or 2–3-parted, usually irregularly coarsely toothed.

Forests, grassy places in valleys; 1600–3500 m. S Gansu, Guizhou, S Shaanxi, W Sichuan, S Xizang, NW Yunnan [Bhutan, N India, Kashmir, Nepal, Pakistan].

The roots are used medicinally.

