

10. AMSONIA Walter, Fl. Carol. 98. 1788.

水甘草属 shui gan cao shu

Herbs annual or perennial, erect, with latex, without stolons. Leaves alternate, membranous. Cymes thyrsoïd or corymbose, terminal. Flowers blue or bluish. Sepals narrowly acuminate, usually without glands. Corolla blue or bluish, salverform; tube cylindrical, dilated above middle, villous inside; lobes overlapping to left. Stamens inserted inside dilated portion of corolla tube; anthers ovate or oblong, free from pistil head, base rounded. Carpels united by a filiform style; ovules numerous, biseriate on each placenta. Pistil head with a basal membranous appendage. Follicles 2, cylindrical-fusiform, erect. Seeds cylindrical, end obliquely truncate; coma absent.

About 20 species: North America, SE Asia; one species in China.

1. *Amsonia elliptica* (Thunberg ex Murray) Roemer & Schultes, Syst. Veg. 4: 432. 1819.

水甘草 shui gan cao

Tabernaemontana elliptica Thunberg ex Murray, Syst. Veg. ed. 14, 255. 1784; *Amsonia sinensis* Tsiang & P. T. Li.

Herbs perennial, to 40 cm tall, glabrous. Stems terete. Petiole 3–5 mm; leaf blade elliptic or narrowly so, 2.2–5 cm × 5–8 mm, base and apex acuminate, lateral veins almost flat on both surfaces. Inflorescences terminal, short thyrses. Pedicel ca. 4 mm. Sepals ca. 2 mm. Corolla bluish, tube ca. 1 cm, villous inside and densely so at throat; lobes oblong, ca. 6 mm. Anther apex included. Ovary glabrous. Style ca. 5 mm. Fl. Jun. $2n = 22$.

Grasslands. Anhui, Jiangsu [Japan].

Decoction of all parts is used to cure chills and to induce sweat.

