

5. CANSCORA Lamarck, Encycl. 1: 601. 1785.

穿心草属 chuan xin cao shu

Euphorbiopsis H. Léveillé & Vaniot.

Annuals or perennials. Leaves opposite, sessile, petiolate, or perfoliate. Cymes pseudodichotomous or complex. Flowers 4- or 5-merous. Calyx tubular. Corolla usually tubular, salverform, or campanulate. Stamens inserted at apical part of corolla tube, 1 or 2 (or 3) with fertile anthers, 2 or 3 with sterile nonfunctional anthers. Ovary 1-locular. Stigma lobes oblong or capitate. Capsules 2-valved, many seeded. Seeds suborbicular, compressed; seed coat reticulate.

About 30 species: tropical and subtropical Africa, Asia, and Australia; three species in S China.

- 1a. Leaf pairs completely joined into single, orbicular, perfoliate blade; flowers 5-merous; corolla campanulate; stamens subequal; plants apparently perennial 3. *C. lucidissima*
- 1b. Leaves free, not perfoliate; flowers 4-merous; corolla tubular or salverform; stamens clearly unequal; plants annual.
 - 2a. Apical leaf blades narrowly ovate; calyx tube 9–11 mm, prominently 8-veined; corolla tubular; fertile stamen 1 1. *C. andrographioides*
 - 2b. Apical leaf blades cordate; calyx tube 4–5 mm, obscurely 4-veined; corolla salverform; fertile stamens 2 or 3 2. *C. diffusa*

1. *Canscora andrographioides* Griffith ex C. B. Clarke, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 14: 431. 1875.

罗星草 luo xin cao

Canscora melastomacea Handel-Mazzetti.

Annuals, 20–40 cm tall, glabrous. Stems erect, much branched, obscurely 4-angled. Leaves sessile, ovate-lanceolate to ovate, 1–5 × 0.5–2.5 cm, base cuneate to rounded, apex acute; veins 3–5, slender. Cymes pseudodichotomous. Flowers 4-merous. Calyx tubular; tube 0.9–1.1 cm, membranous; lobes narrowly triangular, 3–4 mm, apex acute, veins 3 and prominent. Corolla white to purple, tubular, 1.4–1.8 cm; lobes elliptic to oblong-spatulate, 4.5–5 mm, margin entire, apex obtuse. Fertile stamens 1; filaments filiform, 2–2.5 mm; anthers ellipsoid, 1–1.2 mm. Sterile stamens 3; filaments 0.4–0.5 mm; anthers small. Style filiform, 8.5–10 mm; stigma lobes oblong. Capsules ellipsoid, 7–8 mm. Seeds 0.5–0.6 mm. Fl. and fr. Sep-Oct.

Weed in cultivated land, valleys, forests; 200–1400 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, S and SW Yunnan [Cambodia, India (Assam), Laos, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam].

2. *Canscora diffusa* (Vahl) R. Brown ex Roemer & Schultes, Syst. Veg. 3: 301. 1818.

铺地穿心草 pu di chuan xin cao

Gentiana diffusa Vahl, Symb. Bot. 3: 47. 1794; *Canscora rubiflora* X. X. Chen; *Striga esquirolii* H. Léveillé.

Annuals, to 30 cm tall, glabrous throughout. Stems branched from base, lower internodes winged, upper subterete. Leaves sessile; basal leaves ovate to broadly lanceolate, 1.8–2.4 × 0.8–1.8 cm, base truncate to cuneate, apex acute; veins 3–5, slender. Cymes lax, spreading; bracts to 2 × 0.5 mm. Pedicel to 1 mm, narrowly winged. Calyx to 5 mm; tube narrowly cylindrical, to 3.5 mm; lobes linear-lanceolate, to 1.5 mm, apex acuminate. Corolla pale purple to

pink, salverform, tube to 8 mm; lobes oblong, 2.5–5 mm. Fertile stamens 2 or 3, shorter than corolla tube. Sterile stamens 1 or 2, ca. as long as tube. Capsules linear-ovoid, 4–6 mm.

Weed in moist cultivated land. Guangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan [Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; tropical Africa, tropical Australia].

3. *Canscora lucidissima* (H. Léveillé & Vaniot) Handel-Mazzetti, Symb. Sin. 7: 234. 1931.

穿心草 chuan xin cao

Euphorbia lucidissima H. Léveillé & Vaniot, Bull. Herb. Boissier, sér. 2, 6: 763. 1906; *Euphorbiopsis lucidissima* (H. Léveillé & Vaniot) H. Léveillé.

Plants 10–30 cm tall, glabrous, from woody rootstock, apparently perennial. Stems woody at base, erect, much branched, obscurely 4-angled. Basal leaves short petiolate; leaf blade ovate; middle to upper stem leaves with paired blades orbicular, perfoliate, 0.7–2 cm in diam., reticulate veins prominent. Cymes pseudodichotomous, many flowered; bracts foliose. Flowers 5-merous. Calyx campanulate, 5–6 mm, tube membranous; lobes triangular, 1–1.5 mm, apex acute. Corolla white or pale yellow, campanulate, 6–8 mm; lobes oblong-spatulate, 2–2.5 mm, margin entire, apex obtuse. Stamens subequal; filaments filiform, 1.5–2 mm; anthers ellipsoid, 0.7–1 mm. Style filiform, 2–2.5 mm; stigma lobes orbicular. Capsules broadly ellipsoid, 4–5 mm. Seeds light brown, 0.4–0.5 mm. Fl. and fr. Aug.

- Limestone slopes. Guangxi, Guizhou.

The relationship of *Canscora lucidissima* to the other species of *Canscora* needs further investigation. The superficial similarity to some species of *Euphorbia* sect. *Esula* is quite striking.

