

35. **ALAJJA** Ikonnikov, *Novosti Sist. Vyssh. Rast.* 8: 274. 1971.

菱叶元宝草属 *ling ye yuan bao cao shu*

Plants annual or perennial, alpine, herbaceous. Leaves short petiolate to subsessile; leaf blade mostly rhombic, margin entire or crenate, tomentose. Verticillasters few flowered; bracts to as long as calyx, subulate. Flowers sessile. Calyx tubular-campanulate, lanate; teeth 5, linear-lanceolate. Corolla purple, 2-lipped; tube erect, straight, exerted, glabrous inside, throat dilated; upper lip subgaleate, apex emarginate; lower lip spreading, 3-lobed; middle lobe 2-lobulate; lateral lobes ovate or oblong, margin entire, apex emarginate. Stamens 4, didynamous, ascending, anterior 2 longer; anthers hirsute or glabrous, cells 2, divaricate. Style equally 2-cleft at apex, lobes subulate.

Many workers include *Alajja* in *Lamium*.

About three species: Afghanistan, India, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan; two species in China.

- 1a. Anthers hirsute; bracts as long as calyx; upper stem leaves coarsely crenate 1. *A. rhomboidea*
1b. Anthers glabrous or subglabrous; bracts longer than calyx; upper stem leaves inconspicuously few
crenate or subentire 2. *A. anomala*

1. **Alajja rhomboidea** (Benth) Ikonnikov, *Novosti Sist. Vyssh. Rast.* 8: 274. 1971.

菱叶元宝草属 *ling ye yuan bao cao*

Lamium rhomboideum Benth, *Labiata. Gen. Spec.* 509. 1834; *Erianthera rhomboidea* (Benth) Benth.

Herbs unbranched. Stem base usually concealed amongst rocks, slender, flexuous, with scalelike leaves; above ground part 15–30 cm tall, robust, ascending, densely villous-tomentose. Basal leaf blades subentire; stem leaves few, crowded, petiolate, blade rhombic; upper leaf blades 5–10 cm wide, corrugate, base cuneate, margin coarsely crenate, apex obtuse, veins flabellate, netted. Verticillasters 2-flowered; floral leaves numerous, gradually reduced at apex; bracts subulate, flaccid-lanate, as long as calyx. Calyx 1.3–2 cm, flaccid-villous outside, teeth lanceolate-linear. Corolla purple; tube straight, ca. 3.8 cm, puberulent outside, glabrous inside; lateral lobes of lower lip ovate, entire. Anthers hirsute.

Alpine alluvial fans; 4000–5000 m. Xizang [Afghanistan, India, Pakistan].

2. **Alajja anomala** (Juzepczuk) Ikonnikov, *Novosti Sist. Vyssh. Rast.* 8: 274. 1971.

异叶元宝草 *yi ye yuan bao cao*

Herbs perennial. Stems numerous, subterranean base slender, flexuous, whitish, glabrous, with ovate-lanceolate scalelike leaves; aboveground part purplish red, 12–35 cm tall, suberect, sometimes branched from base, densely lanate. Basal stem leaves long petiolate, blade margin entire; upper leaf blades longer, ovate-rhombic, base cuneate, gray, minutely tomentose especially on veins, veins indistinct. Verticillasters 2- or 4-flowered; floral leaves with broad, short to obsolete petiole, blade largest, 1.5–4×1.5–4 cm, ± crowded into a rosette, broadly rhombic to cuneate-flabellate, margin few crenulate to subentire, apex rounded; bracts ca. 7 mm. Calyx campanulate, 1.5–2×ca. 0.8 cm, slightly enlarged after anthesis, densely appressed lanate-tomentose outside; teeth ca. 7 mm, apex spinescent. Corolla purple, 3–4 cm, ± lanate outside, tube 1.5–2 cm, 3–4 mm wide; upper lip ca. 1.5 cm, oblong-ovate, apex obtuse or emarginate; lower lip longer, middle lobe 8–10×ca. 6 mm, lateral lobes ovate or oblong, apex emarginate. Anthers glabrous or subglabrous. Nutlets unknown. Fl. Jul-Aug.

Hills; 3300 m. Xinjiang (Wuqia Xian) [Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan].

