

57. ROSMARINUS Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 23. 1753.

迷迭香属 mi die xiang shu

Shrubs evergreen. Leaves linear, margin entire, revolute. Floral and to stem leaves similar; bracts petiolate. Flowers subsessile, few, crowded in apical racemes on short branches. Calyx ovoid-campanulate, glabrous on throat inside, 11-veined, 2-lipped, upper lip entire or 3-denticulate, lower lip 2-toothed. Corolla blue-purple, bluish, or whitish, 2-lipped; tube exerted, glabrous inside, dilated at throat; upper lip erect, emarginate or 2-lobed; lower lip large, spreading, 3-lobed; middle lobe largest, concave, declined, margin dentate; lateral lobes oblong. Stamens 2, reaching upper corolla lip; filaments coherent with connectives, with a tooth reflexed below middle; anther cells 2, parallel, only 1 fertile, linear, inserted on top of connective; staminodes absent. Style much longer than stamens, apex unequally 2-cleft, lobes subulate, posterior lobe shorter. Disc ringlike, equally 4-lobed. Nutlets ovoid-globose, smooth, each with an elaiosome.

About three (to five) species: Africa, SW Asia, Europe; one species cultivated in China.

Many recognize this as a monotypic genus.

1. Rosmarinus officinalis Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 23. 1753.

迷迭香 mi die xiang

Plants to 2 m tall. Bark dark gray, irregularly fissured, exfoliating, young branches densely white stellate-tomentulose. Leaves tufted on branches, sessile to short petiolate; leaf blade 1–2.5 cm×1–2 mm, leathery, adaxially somewhat shiny, subglabrous, abaxially densely white stellate-tomentose, base attenuate, margin entire, revolute, apex obtuse. Calyx ca. 4 mm, densely white stellate tomentose and glandular outside, upper lip subcircular, teeth of lower lip ovate-triangular. Corolla blue-purple, less than 1 cm, sparsely pubescent outside, tube slightly exerted, apex of upper lip 2-lobed, lobes ovate, middle lobe of lower lip constricted at base into claw, lateral lobes oblong. Fl. Nov.

Introduced in China ca. 220 A.D. [Africa, SW Asia, Europe].

An aromatic ornamental plant.

