

26. LIMOSELLA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 631. 1753.

水茫草属 shui mang cao shu

Herbs, dwarf, aquatic or terrestrial, caespitose, creeping, or floating. Stolons rooting from nodes or acaulescent. Leaves fascicled, opposite, or alternate on elongated branches, long petiolate. Flowers axillary, minute, short pedicellate. Bracteoles absent. Calyx campanulate, 5-lobed. Corolla radiate-campanulate, regular; tube short; lobes 5, subequal. Stamens 4, equal, inserted near middle of corolla tube; filaments filiform; anthers confluent, 1-loculed. Ovary basally 2-loculed. Style short; stigma capitate. Capsule indistinctly dehiscent. Seeds numerous, ovoid, small; seed coat rugose.

About seven species: worldwide; one species in China.

1. *Limosella aquatica* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 631. 1753.

水茫草 shui mang cao

Annuals, 3–5(–10) cm tall, fascicled, glabrous. Stolons slender, short, rooting from nodes. Leaves basal, fascicled or rosulate. Petiole 1–4(–9) cm; leaf blade broadly linear to narrowly spatulate, 3–15 mm, ± fleshy, margin entire, apex obtuse. Flowers 3–10. Pedicel 0.7–1.3 cm, slender. Calyx 1.5–2.5 mm, membranous; lobes ovate-triangular, 0.5–0.8 mm, apex acuminate. Corolla white, pale lilac, or reddish, 2–3.5 mm; lobes oblong to oblong-ovate, 1–1.5 mm, apex obtuse. Capsule ovoid, ca. 3 mm. Seeds fusiform. Fl. and fr. Apr–Sep.

Along streams, wet grassland at edge of forests, sometimes floating; 1700–2400(–4000) m. Heilongjiang, Jilin, Qinghai, Sichuan, Xizang, Yunnan [throughout temperate zones of northern and southern hemispheres].

