
簇苞芹属 **cu bao qin shu**

Pan Zehui (潘泽惠); Mark F. Watson

Herbs biennial or perennial, aromatic when crushed. Taproot stout. Stems stout, erect, solitary, sparingly branched above, bases clothed with papery remnant sheaths. Leaves mostly basal, petiolate; petiole abruptly and broadly sheathing at base; blade pinnate, stiffly subcoriaceous; pinnae ovate or suborbicular, margin coarse-serrate, subsessile. Umbels compound, terminal and lateral; bracts several, obovate, lobed, stiffly papery, apex coarsely toothed; rays few, short; umbellules crowded; bracteoles prominent, similar to bracts, rigid, longer than and fringing the flowers, persistent and remaining spreading after fruiting. Calyx teeth small, triangular-acute, persistent in fruit. Petals broadly oblong-obovate, deep red-purple or purple-black, apex shortly incurved. Stylopodium flat-domed; styles slightly longer than stylopodium. Fruit narrowly oblong, slightly compressed laterally, glabrous; ribs prominent, narrowly winged; vittae 1–2 in each furrow, 4 on commissure. Seed face concave. Carpophore 2-parted.

One species: high-altitudes in Bhutan, China, E Nepal, and Sikkim.


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Plants 10–50 cm, essentially glabrous (sometimes scabrescent at base of umbels, rays and around nodes). Stem base ca. 1 cm thick. Petioles slender, 2.5–15 cm, sheath often purple spotted; blade oblong in outline, 5–20 × 2–5 cm; pinnae 3–7 pairs, 9–18 × 7–20 mm, base rounded or truncate, apex acute, green adaxially, often tinged purple abaxially. Umbels 4–15 (–25) cm across; bracts 4–6, 2–3.5 cm, green; rays 4–7, (1.5–) 4–13 cm, stout, to 3 mm thick; umbellules 2–4 cm across; bracteoles numerous, 1–16 × 4–8 mm, 3-lobed, lobes toothed, acute; pedicels 1–3 mm. Calyx teeth purple-black, ca. 0.5 mm. Fruit 3–4.5 × 1.5–2 mm green, apex blackened. Fl. and fr. Jan–Sep(–Oct).

Alpine turf, among rocks and dwarf shrubs, semi-stable screes; ca. 4000 m. S Xizang (Yadong) [Bhutan, E Nepal, Sikkim].

This species is morphologically similar to *Pleurospernum bicolor* and is possibly closely related.