
虻眼属 meng yan shu
Herbs, annual, slender and weak, erect or sometimes decumbent, ± succulent. Leaves opposite, succulent, sometimes scalelike. Flowers axillary, solitary. Bracteoles absent. Corolla tube much longer than calyx, distally inflated; limbs 2-lipped; lower lip 3-lobed; upper lip 2-lobed, conspicuously shorter than lower lip. Stamens 2, inserted on upper side of corolla tube; filaments filiform; anther locules distinct, equal, parallel; staminodes 2, small, inserted on anterior side, margin entire. Style short; stigma 2-lamellate, clavate, or capitulate. Ovary 2-loculed; ovules numerous in each locule. Capsule loculicidal; valves entire or apex shallowly 2-lobed. Seeds small, numerous.

About 10 species: tropics of Africa, Asia, Australia, and Oceania; one species in China.


虻眼 meng yan


Annuals, to 50 cm tall. Roots fibrous. Stems succulent, erect, much branched from base; branches slender, longitudinally striate, glabrous. Leaves sometimes scalelike, gradually decreasing in size upward, sessile, lanceolate to subspatulate-lanceolate, to 2 cm, base amplexicaul and generally narrowly attenuate, margin entire, apex acute to ± obtuse; veins inconspicuous. Pedicel slender, to 1 cm. Calyx campanulate, ca. 2 mm, parted to slightly beyond middle; lobes 5, apex obtuse. Corolla white, rose, or pale purple, ca. 2 × as long as calyx; lower lip lobes spreading flat; upper lip erect, short. Stamens glabrous. Capsule globose, ca. 2 mm in diam. Seeds ovoid-oblong; seed coat reticulate.

Rice fields, wet places; below 1800 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Henan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, S Shanxi, Taiwan, Yunnan [Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam; Australia, Oceania].