
Herbs many branched or subshrubs. Leaves opposite or whorled, generally glandular punctate, margin entire or toothed. Flowers 1–3 per node. Pedicel slender. Calyx 4- or 5-lobed; lobes imbricate, ovate to lanceolate. Corolla nearly regular; tube inconspicuous; limb subrotate, densely hairy at throat; lobes 4, imbricate. Stamens 4, subequal; anther locules distinct, parallel or divergent. Ovary globose; ovules numerous. Style apically ± enlarged. Capsule ovoid to globose, septicidal and secondarily loculicidal; valves thin, margin involute. Seeds many, small, foveolate.

About 20 species: mostly from tropical America; one species in China.


Herbs or suffrutescent subshrub, erect, to 1 m tall. Branches ribbed to narrowly winged, puberulent at nodes. Leaves petiolate; leaf blade rhomboid-ovate to rhomboid-lanceolate, to 3.6 × 1.5 cm, glabrous, glandular punctate, base cuneate, margin toothed above middle, sometimes slightly double serrate, or subentire, apex obtuse. Flowers usually axillary, (1 or)2 per node. Pedicel 5–10 mm, glabrous. Bracteoles absent. Calyx lobed to base; lobes 4, ovate-oblong, ca. 2 mm, margin ciliate, apex obtuse. Corolla white, ca. 4 mm in diam.; tube densely hairy at throat; lobes 2–3 mm, margin erose-denticulate, apex obtuse; upper lobe slightly larger than others. Stamens exserted. Style erect; stigma truncate to 2-parted. Capsule 2–3 cm in diam., columella persistent.

Waste places, beside trails, occasionally on mountain slopes; below 1400 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Taiwan, Yunnan [throughout tropics and subtropics].