

CIRCAEASTERACEAE

星叶草科 xing ye cao ke

Fu Dezhi (傅德志)¹; Bruce Bartholomew²

Herbs annual. Cotyledons persistent. Leaves rosulate, borne on elongated hypocotyl; veins dichotomous. Flowers fascicled in axil of upper leaves, bisexual but number of organs variable. Sepals 2 or 3, persistent. Petals absent. Stamens 1 or 2(or 3), alternating with sepals; anthers 2-loculed, introrse. Carpels 1–3, separate; ovary superior; style absent; stigma terminal, papillate; ovule 1 per ovary, subapical, pendulous. Fruit indehiscent. Seeds with copious endosperm; embryo terete, straight, with short cotyledons.

One species: Bhutan, China, NE India, Nepal, Sikkim.

Wang Wen-tsai. 1980. *Circaeaster*. In: Wang Wen-tsai, ed., Fl. Reipubl. Popularis Sin. 28: 239–241.

1. CIRCAEASTER Maximowicz, Bull. Acad. Imp. Sci. Saint-Pétersbourg 27: 556. 1882.

星叶草属 xing ye cao shu

Morphological characters and geographical distribution are the same as those of the family.

1. *Circaeaster agrestis* Maximowicz, Bull. Acad. Imp. Sci. Saint-Pétersbourg 27: 556. 1882.

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Herbs 3–10 cm tall. Cotyledons linear to lanceolate, 4–11 × 0.6–2 mm, glabrous. Leaves petiolate; leaf blade rhombic, obovate, spatulate, or cuneiform, 3.5–23 × 1–11 mm, glabrous, abaxially pinkish green, base cuneate, margin minutely toothed, apex mucronate; vein dichotomies mostly open, sometimes with few anastomoses. Bracts subtending each flower fascicle except terminal one. Flowers shortly pedicellate. Sepals narrowly ovate, ca. 0.5 mm, membranous, glabrous. Stamens 0.6–1 mm, glabrous; filaments linear; anthers ellipsoid, ca. 0.1 mm. Carpels slightly longer than stamens, glabrous. Ovary oblong; stigma subellipsoid. Achenes narrowly oblong to nearly fusiform, 2.5–3.8 mm long, with dense or sparse, hooked hairs, occasionally glabrous. Fl. Apr–Jul, fr. Aug–Sep. $2n = 30^*$.

Forests or wet grasslands, usually under shade of trees, shrubs, or rock ledges; 2100–5000 m. S Gansu, E and S Qinghai, S Shaanxi, W Sichuan, NW Xinjiang, E and S Xizang, NW Yunnan [Bhutan, NE India, Nepal, Sikkim].

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