

#### 4. OXYBAPHUS L'Héritier ex Willdenow, Sp. Pl. 1: 185. 1797.

山紫茉莉属 shan zi mo li shu

Herbs annual or perennial, erect, ascending, or prostrate, sometimes with tuberous roots. Stems viscid glandular pubescent or glabrescent. Leaves opposite. Inflorescences axillary, in 1-3-flowered cymes, sometimes panicles, or rarely 1-flowered, enclosed within a campanulate involucre; involucre lobes 5, reticulate-venose, enlarged and membranous after flowering. Flowers bisexual, inconspicuous, opening in morning; pedicel 20-25 mm. Perianth constricted beyond the ovary, 0.6-0.8(-1) cm, limb rose-red or light red-purple, plicate, campanulate or short funnelform, often oblique, ca. 0.8 cm in diam., deciduous. Stamens (2-)3(-5); filaments capillary, circinate incurved, jointed at the ovary base. Style filiform; stigma capitate. Fruit oblong, fusiform, obovoid, or terete, small, smooth or tuberculate, without sticky glands. Seed: embryo curved, cotyledons enclosing the endosperm, radicle elongated.

About 25 species: mainly in warm regions of America, one species in Asia.

**1. *Oxybaphus himalaicus*** Edgeworth var. ***chinensis*** (Heimerl) D. Q. Lu, Rep. Abst. 60th Ann. Bot. Soc. China, 102. 1993.

中华山紫茉莉 zhong hua shan zi mo li

*Mirabilis himalaica* (Edgeworth) Heimerl var. *chinensis* Heimerl, Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Mus. Berlin-Dahlem 11: 454. 1932.

Herbs annual. Stems ascending or prostrate, many branched, terete, 50-80 cm, sparsely glandular pubescent to glabrescent. Petiole 1-2 cm; leaf blade ovate, 2-6 × 1-5 cm, abaxially hairy, adaxially scabrous, base cordate or rotund, margin pubescent or not obviously denticulate, apex acuminate or acute. Flowers terminal or axillary. Pedicel slender, 1-2.5 cm, densely viscid glandular pubescent. Involucre campanulate, 2.5-5 mm, 5-dentate (teeth triangular), densely viscid glandular pubescent outside. Perianth purple-red or pink, 6-8 mm, apex 5-lobed. Stamens 5, as long as perianth; filaments linear, circinate incurved; anthers ovoid, 2-celled, longitudinally dehiscent. Ovary obconic, glabrous. Style as long as perianth or longer; stigma lobed. Fruit black, ellipsoid or ovoid, ca. 5 mm. Fl. and fr. Aug-Oct.

- Thickets, grasslands, dry and warm river valleys, riversides,

rock crevices, rock walls; 700-2700(-3400) m. SW Gansu, S Shaanxi, N Sichuan, Xizang, NW Yunnan.

This species is interesting, being the only Old World representative of an otherwise entirely New World genus. *Oxybaphus himalaicus* var. *himalaicus* occurs in N India and usually has four (not five) stamens. Wu Zhengyi (editor's note) adds that var. *himalaicus* has also been recorded from S Xizang (in Fl. Xizang).

The roots are used medicinally.

