

## 12. SAMOLUS Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 171. 1753.

水茴草属 shui hui cao shu

Herbs annual or perennial. Stems erect, sometimes woody at base. Leaves alternate or sometimes the basal forming a rosette. Inflorescences terminal, racemose to corymbose. Calyx 5-lobed; tube fused with ovary at base or to middle. Corolla white, campanulate, 5-lobed. Stamens 5, inserted in corolla tube; filaments very short; anthers obtuse or acute at apex; staminodes 5, linear to ligulate, alternating with corolla lobes. Ovary semi-inferior; ovules numerous, semi-anatropous. Style short; stigma obtuse to capitellate. Capsule globose, dehiscent by valves.

About 10 species: mostly maritime countries of the southern hemisphere; 1 species in China

### 1. *Samolus valerandi* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 171. 1753.

水茴草 shui hui cao

Plants annual, glabrous. Stems erect, 10–30(–40) cm, terete or obscurely angular. Basal leaves obovate to oblong-ovate, 1.2–6.5 × 0.7–3 cm, tapered at base into a short winged petiole, margin entire, apex rounded to obtuse; stem leaves smaller, short petiolate or sessile, apex obtuse to apiculate.

Racemes loose, usually 8–20 cm, 10–20-flowered. Pedicel 6–12 mm; bracts lanceolate, ca. 1 mm, adnate to middle of pedicel. Calyx campanulate, ca. 1 mm, enlarged to 2–2.5 mm in fruit, parted to 1/3; lobes triangular. Corolla white, 2–3 mm in diam.; tube nearly as long as calyx; lobes ovate, apex obtuse. Capsule 2–3 mm in diam.  $2n = 24, 26$ .

River banks, streamsides, areas near water; 100–1300 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hunan, Yunnan [Cosmopolitan].