

Botanic name : *Osbeckia chinensis* L. Sp. Pl. 1: 345. 1753.

Common name : Chinese osbeckia, Tin xiang lu (Chinese), Hime-no-botan (Japanese),

Family : Melastomataceae

Habitat : Terrestrial

Distribution : East Asia - China, India, Japan, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines to Australia.

Description : Erect, herbaceous perennial that sometimes forms woody stems and becomes shrub-like; stems 4-angled, petiole strigose; leaves linear to linear-lanceolate, elliptic-ovate, stiffly-papery; terminal cyme, hypanthium pink, (calyx Cup) 4--7 mm long, Petals 4 or 5, pink to pale purple, obovate, margin ciliate, apex apiculate or rounded. Stamens 8 or 10, inclined to one side; filaments as long as anthers; anthers narrowly lanceolate, beaked; connective bases slightly inflated. Ovary subglobose, apex densely setose or strigose. Capsule purplish red, ovoid-globose.

Phytochemicals: ellagitannin punicalagin. Besides, flavonoids, alkaloids, saponins, steroid, terpenoid, tannin, glycoside

Medicinal/Economic uses : The whole plant is antitussive, antioxidant, expectorant and febrifuge. A decoction is used in the treatment of watery diarrhoea, dysentery and excessive sputum production in coughing. In NE India, traditionally, a decoction of the roots is used as folk remedy for a variety of ailments, including diabetes mellitus.