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APOCYNACEAE

in part

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Apocynum L.

Sp. Pl.: 213. 1753. Type: *Apocynum androsaemifolium* L. [Heterotypic synonyms: *Poacynum* Baill.; *Trachomitum* Woodson.] Four species and one hybrid. In Greece, one species.

Description: Perennial, rhizomatous herbs or subshrubs, with latex. Stems erect or ascending, glabrous to pubescent. Leaves opposite or upper ones sometimes subopposite or alternate, petiolate or sessile, blades oblong-ovate to linear-lanceolate, lacking colleters at base of midrib. Inflorescence a terminal, bracteate, glabrous to pubescent, monochasial cyme. Calyx 5-lobed, eglandular inside. ***Corolla cylindric to campanulate or infundibular***, minutely pubescent, 5-lobed; lobes overlapping to right in bud, erect to patent with tips recurved in flower; throat wide and open, with 5 apiculate appendages forming a ring, adnate to base of corolla tube, each appendage opposite to a corolla lobe. Stamens alternate with appendages, inserted at base of corolla tube, ***convergent around style head***; filaments short, pubescent; anthers with an enlarged, sterile auriculate base and an acute apex, ***firmly attached style head***; ***pollen in tetrads***. Nectaries 5 separate, coalesced at base. Carpels free, with many ovules. Style very short; style head without basal annulus. Gynostegium exposed at base of corolla. Follicles 2, ***with many seeds***; seeds oblong, glabrous, ***except for long apical coma***.

Literature: Woodson (1930), Pobedimova (1952), Markgraf (1972), Rechinger (1974), Stearn (1978), Nilsson & al. (1993).

General comments: The genus *Apocynum* was split by Woodson (1930). His new genus *Trachomitum* included all the Eurasian species of *Apocynum*. This treatment is generally not accepted and *Trachomitum*, together with *Poacynum*, is currently considered as a synonym of *Apocynum* (e.g. Nilsson & al. 1993).

1. *Apocynum venetum* L.

Sp. Pl.: 213. 1753. Homotypic synonyms: *Poacynum venetum* (L.) Mavrodiev & al.; *Trachomitum venetum* (L.) Woodson. Type: not designated. Original material (Jarvis 2007: 307): Herb. Clifford: 80, *Apocynum* 2 (BM000558177, BM000558178), Herb. Burser XVI(2): 43 (UPS), [illustration] "Esula rara è Lio Venetorum insula" in Lobel, Pl. Stirp. Hist.: 201. 1576.

Description: Much-branched perennial, to 100 cm tall, with creeping rhizome. Stems erect or ascending, glabrous, reddish-brown to violet toward apex; branches ascending, subalternate. Leaves opposite, petiolate, 2–5 cm long, ***lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate,*** truncate at base, ***acute or subacute*** and often mucronate ***at apex***, glabrous, with an irregularly denticulate margin. Inflorescence relatively few-flowered; ***bracts narrowly lanceolate to almost filiform, conspicuous, persistent***. Pedicels, calyx and corolla minutely pubescent. Calyx 2–3 mm long;

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calyx lobes to 2 mm long, lanceolate, acute, violet. Corolla tubular-campanulate, 5–7 mm long, rose-pink, usually with a somewhat darker vein in middle of each lobe, extending down to throat; throat c. 4 mm in diam.; lobes oblong to oblong-lanceolate, obtuse, ***½ to as long as corolla tube***. Follicles 12–18 cm long, terete, somewhat falcate, pendulous.

Distribution: E Mediterranean area, from coasts of the Adriatic Sea and the Aegean to the Black Sea, eastward through C Asia to China and Japan. Only two localities reported from Greece, from the island of Limnos (Yannitsaros & al. 2000; Panitsa & al. 2003) and Nomos Xanthis (Doumas & al. 2022). NAe, NE (Dimopoulos & al. 2013; Doumas & al. 2022).

Karyology: 2*n* = 22 (Gao & al. 2023).

Status	**Conservation status**		**Legal status**	
N	–		–	
Life form	**Functional trait**	**Chorology**	**Distribution in Greece**	
H	*	EA	NAe, NE	
Habitat	**Geology**	**Altitude**	**Flowering**	**Fruiting**
M	**	Sea level	VI–VIII	–

* Pollination by insects (insect generalist; Ollerton & al. 2019). Seed dispersal by wind.
** In Greece it grows on sandy lake shores and sea shores.

General comments: Antimicrobial and antioxidant (Demir & al. 2011). According to POWO (2023), there are eight subspecies within *Apocynum venetum*, which have as yet unpublished names and a distribution that in some cases, e.g. subsp. *venetum* and subsp. *sarmatiense*, is not in accordance with the distribution of their synonyms (*Trachomitum venetum* (L.) Woodson and *T. sarmatiense* Woodson, respectively). The initial identification of the Greek plants as *T. sarmatiense* (Yannitsaros & al. 2000) is most probably incorrect, because the latter has ovate to ovate-lanceolate leaves with an obtuse apex, inconspicuous bracts, ovate and obtuse calyx lobes to 1 mm long and corolla lobes shorter than ⅓ of the corolla tube (holotype specimen: GH00093153!). On the contrary, the two Greek populations have lanceolate, acute leaves, conspicuous bracts, lanceolate and acute calyx lobes to 2 mm long and corolla lobes ½ to almost as long as the corolla tube, in accordance with the descriptions of *T. venetum* by Woodson (1930), Markgraf (1972) and Rechinger (1974) (Doumas & al. 2022).

1a. *Apocynum venetum* subsp. ***venetum***

Description: Leaves lanceolate, acute. Bracts conspicuous, lanceolate. Calyx lobes acute, to 2 mm long. Corolla lobes ½ to almost as long as corolla tube. 2*n* = 22.

Distribution: Greek distribution similar to the species. NAe, NE.

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