Annual or perennial herbs. Leaves linear with parallel veins. Inflorescence cymose, terminal or flowers solitary. Bracteole 2-many, adpressed to the calyx. Calyx tubular or cylindrical; calyx teeth 5, usually acute or acuminate; nerves many, commissural nerves absent. Petals 5, with a long claw, limb lanceolate or dentate, barbulate or not, never bilobed. Coronal scales absent. Stamens 10. Styles 2. Ovary 1-locular. Capsule many seeded, dehiscing by 4 teeth. Carpophore usually absent. Seeds compressed-discoid.