
假楼梯草属 jia lou ti cao shu

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**Meniscogyne** Gagnepain.

Herbs annual or perennial, without stinging hairs. Stems succulent. Leaves opposite, petiolate; stipules deciduous, intrapetiolar, connate, membranous; leaf blade 3-veined, usually symmetric, margin serrate-dentate; cystoliths linear. Inflorescences solitary, axillary, often pedunculate, seated on a receptacle; receptacles at first broadly subcampanulate, soon expanded, of unisexual flowers (plants monoecious or dioecious); male and female inflorescences often separate or sometimes mixed in same receptacle, rarely male ones capitulate or cymose without receptacle; involucral bracts in 1 or 2 whorled rows along margin of receptacle. Male flowers often obconic in bud; perianth lobes 4 or 5, slightly unequal, imbricate; stamens 4 or 5; filaments inflexed in bud; rudimentary ovary minute, inconspicuous. Female flowers: perianth lobes (3 or)4(or 5), often unequal, often corniculate below apex; staminodes small, scale-like, indistinct. Ovary straight; style absent; stigma sessile, deciduous, ovoid orovate orovate, ovule orthotropous. Achene straight, with crested or U-shaped appendix at apex or along dorsiventral edges, usually verrucose, invested by shorter persistent perianth. Seeds with little endosperm; cotyledons thick, elliptic.

Three species: tropics and subtropics of E Africa and E Asia; three species (one endemic) in China.

Gagnepain described the genus *Meniscogyne* on the basis of U-shaped stigmas. In fact, the stigmas are penicillate, very soon deciduous, and have an enlarged, crested or U-shaped appendix at the apex. These characters are typical for the genus *Lecanthus*. Thus, *Meniscogyne* was treated as a synonym of *Lecanthus* in FRPS 23(2) in 1995.

1a. Plants 25–70 cm tall; leaf blade ovate to lanceolate, apex usually acuminate, lateral veins numerous; peduncle 3–10 cm .......................................................................................................................................................... 2. *L. peduncularis*

1b. Plants 2–20 cm tall; leaf blade ovate, often acute, sometimes short acuminate or obtuse, lateral veins 2–4 each side; peduncle less than 3 cm.

2a. Male inflorescences with discoid or cuplike receptacle; male perianth lobes 4; leaf margin 3–8-serrate each side; stipules triangular-ovate, 1.5–3.5 mm ................................................................. 3. *L. petelotii*

2b. Male inflorescences capitulate or cymose, without receptacle, rarely with inconspicuous receptacle; male perianth lobes 4(or 5); leaf margin 7–11-serrate each side; stipules oblong, 3–5 mm ........................................ 1. *L. pileoides*


冷水花假楼梯草 leng shui hua jia lou ti cao

Herbs annual, monoecious. Stems branched or simple, 5–20 cm tall, subglabrous. Stipules oblong, 3–5 mm, membranous, apex obtuse; petiole 0.5–1.5 cm, sparsely pubescent or subglabrous; leaf blade unequal in same pair, ovate, 1.8–4 × 1.2–2.3 cm, membranous, 3-veined, lateral basal pair reaching to middle and anastomosing with adjacent secondary veins before margin or to teeth, lateral veins 3 or 4 on each side, sparsely hirsute adaxially, sparsely pubescent on veins abaxially, base obliquely cuneate, rarely rounded, margin 7–11-serrate each side, apex acute or short acuminate; cystoliths linear; proximal leaves rather small, usually oblong-choriocal, margin several serrate or entire. Male inflorescences few flowered, capitulate or cymose, receptacle inconspicuous or absent, shortly pedunculate, 4–7 mm. Female inflorescences many flowered, sometimes mixed with males, on discoid receptacle; peduncle 0.6–1.5 cm; involucral bracts in 1 row. Male flowers pedicellate, in bud obconic, 1–1.5 mm; perianth lobes 4(or 5) unequal, obovate-oblong, with a few setulose hairs, coriaceous below apex; stamens 4(or 5); rudimentary ovary minute, conic. Female flowers: perianth lobes 4, strongly unequal, with a few setulose hairs, long coriaceous below apex; staminodes conspicuous, squamate; stigma penicillate. Achene brownish, ovoid-oblong, ca. 0.8 mm, crested at dorsal edge, botuliform-verrucose. Fl. Jul–Aug, fr. Sep–Oct.

● Shady places of limestone mountains; ca. 2100 m. SW Guizhou, E Yunnan.


假楼梯草 jia lou ti cao


Herbs perennial, stoloniferous, monoecious or dioecious. Stems often branched, 25–70 cm tall, pubescent distally. Stipules oblong, 3–9 mm, membranous, apex obtuse; petiole 2–8 cm, sparsely pubescent; leaf blade unequal in same pair, ovate to lanceolate, 4–15 × 2–6.5 cm, 3-veined, lateral basal pair often unequal, 1 reaching to middle, anastomosing with adjacent secondary veins before margin, other reaching to tooth of distal margin, lateral veins numerous, sparsely hirsute adaxially, sparsely pubescent on veins abaxially, base slightly obliquely cuneate, margin dentate-serrate, apex usually acuminata; cystoliths linear, conspicuous on both surfaces. Male inflorescences capitulate, receptacle discoid, 8–35 mm in diam.; peduncle 5–30 cm. Female inflorescences on discoid receptacles 5–10 mm in diam.; peduncle 3–12 cm; involucral bracts in 1 or 2 rows, ovate or triangular, ca. 1 mm,
membranous. Male flowers pedicellate; perianth lobes 5, unequal, obovate-oblong, corniculate below apex; stamens 5; rudimentary ovary minute, conic. Female flowers shortly pedicellate; perianth lobes (3 or)4(or 5), subequal or lobes by the margin of discoid receptacle unequal, oblong-obovate, 2 lobes corniculate below apex; staminodes conspicuous, elliptic-oblong, ca. 0.8 mm. Achene brownish gray, ellipsoid-ovoid, 0.8–1 mm, U-shaped elevated appendix along dorsi-ventral edge, verrucose. Fl. Jul–Oct, fr. Sep–Nov.

Shady, moist places in forests, along streams; 1300–2700 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hunan, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, E and S Xizang, Yunnan [Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sikkim, Vietnam; Africa].


Herbs annual, monoecious or dioecious. Stems often simple, 2–10 cm tall, sparsely pubescent or subglabrous. Leaves usually crowded at stem apex; stipules triangular-ovate, 1.5–3 mm; petiole 1–15 mm; leaf blade unequal in same pair, broadly ovate or rhombic-ovate, 0.5–9.5 × 0.3–3 cm, 3-veined, lateral basal pair reaching to distal teeth or anastomosing with adjacent secondary veins before margin, lateral veins 2 or 3 on each side, sparsely hirsute adaxially, sparsely pubescent on veins abaxially, base slightly oblique, broadly cuneate or rounded, margin 3–8-serrate, apex acute or obtuse; cystoliths linear, conspicuous on both surfaces. Male inflorescences few flowered, receptacle cuplike; peduncle 1–5 mm. Female inflorescences on discoid receptacles, 3–6 mm in diam.; peduncle 1–2 cm. Male flowers in bud obovoid, ca. 1 mm; pedicel 1–3 mm; perianth lobes 4, unequal, sometimes corniculate below apex; stamens 4; rudimentary ovary minute, inconspicuous. Female flowers: perianth lobes 4, cymbiform, shorter than ovary, in fruit enlarged and longer than achene, long corniculate below apex; staminodes conspicuous; stigma soon deciduous, penicillate. Achene brown-gray, oblong, slightly compressed, ca. 0.6 mm, U-shaped elevated appendix along distal dorsi-ventral edge, verrucose. Fl. Jun–Aug, fr. Aug–Oct.

Shaded moist places in forests, mossy rocks, along streams; 2500–2900 m. S Xizang, Yunnan [Laos, Vietnam].

Two varieties occur in China; var. petelotii occurs in Laos and Vietnam.

1a. Leaves usually crowded at stem apex, petiole 1–3 mm; female peduncle 1–2 cm; female perianth lobes glabrous at apex .................................................. 3a. var. corniculata

1b. Leaves not crowded at stem apex, petiole 4–15 mm; female peduncle less than 1 cm; female perianth lobes setulose at apex ................................................ 3b. var. yunnanensis


角被假楼梯草 jiao bei jia lou ti cao

Leaves usually crowded at stem apex; petiole 1–3 mm. Female peduncle 1–2 cm. Female perianth lobes glabrous at apex. Achene verrucose.

● Shaded moist places in forests, mossy rocks, along streams; 2500–2900 m. S Xizang, S Yunnan.


云南假楼梯草 yun nan jia lou ti cao


● Shaded moist places in forests, along streams; ca. 2700 m. NW Yunnan (Gongshan).