

3. GYMNOTHECA Decaisne, Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot., sér. 3, 3: 100. 1845.

裸蒴属 *luo shuo shu*

Herbs prostrate, ± stoloniferous. Stems longitudinally ridged and sulcate. Leaves: stipules membranous, base enlarged and clasping, slender; petioles nearly as long as or longer than leaf blades, papery, subglabrous, ± glandular, margin entire or inconspicuously crenulate; veins 5–7, basal. Inflorescence a terminal spike, with large, white, leafy involucre bracts at base or not; rachis compressed, both sides broadly ridged or nearly winged, subglabrous. Flowers white, small. Stamens (5 or)6(or 7), nearly on apex of ovary, shorter than styles; filaments ca. as long as to slightly longer than anthers; anthers oblong. Pistils 4, (2–)4-carpelled; carpels connate; ovary semi-inferior, 1-loculed; placentae 4, each with 9–13 ovules; styles 4, recurved. Capsule fusiform, dehiscent at apex.

Two species: C and SW China, N Vietnam; two species (one endemic) in China.

1a. Inflorescences without leafy involucre bracts at base 1. *G. chinensis*

1b. Inflorescences with 3 or 4, large, white, leafy involucre bracts at base 2. *G. involucrata*

1. *Gymnotheca chinensis* Decaisne, Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot., sér. 3, 3: 100. 1845.

裸蒴 *luo shuo*

Saururus cavaleriei H. Léveillé.

Herbs glabrous. Stems usually 30–65 cm long, rooted at nodes. Stipular sheath 1.5–2 cm, ca. 1/3 as long as petiole; petiole 1.5–7 cm; leaf blade reniform-cordate, (1.5–)3–6.5 × (3–)4–7.5 cm, base auriculate, apex broadly acute or rounded; sometimes outermost pair of veins slender or inconspicuous; reticulate veins ± conspicuous. Inflorescence 2–7.5 cm; peduncle ca. as long as or slightly shorter than inflorescence, 3–6 cm. Bract beneath each flower oblanceolate, ca. 3 mm, apex acute, sometimes basal bracts slightly larger and nearly ligulate. Filaments nearly as long as or slightly longer than anthers. Ovary long obovoid. Fl. Apr–Nov. $2n = 18^*$.

Streamsides, valleys; (100–)600–2000 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunan, Sichuan, Yunnan [N Vietnam].

Used medicinally.

2. *Gymnotheca involucrata* S. J. Pei, Contr. Biol. Lab. Chin. Assoc. Advancem. Sci., Sect. Bot., 9: 111. 1934.

白苞裸蒴 *bai bao luo shuo*

Herbs glabrous. Stems usually 30–70 cm long. Stipular sheath 1.5–2 cm, 1/4–1/3 as long as petiole; petiole 1.5–8.5 cm; leaf blade cordate or reniform-cordate, 4–18 × 6–10 cm, base deeply auriculate, apex broadly acute; reticulate veins conspicuous. Inflorescence ca. 5 cm, usually leaf-opposed at middle of stems; peduncles 4–7 cm, slightly longer than or nearly as long as inflorescences; involucre bracts 3 or 4, white, leafy, very large, 1.2–1.8 × 0.8–1.2 cm, obovate-oblong. Bract beneath each flower obovate-oblong or oblanceolate, ca. 3 mm, apex acute. Filaments slightly longer than anthers. Ovary obconical. Fl. Feb–Jun. $2n = 18^*$.

• Roadsides, wet places in forests; 700–1000 m. S Sichuan.

Type from Mabian, Sichuan.

