

23. MAOUTIA Weddell, Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot., sér. 4, 1: 193. 1854.

水丝麻属 shui si ma shu

Chen Jiarui (陈家瑞 Chen Chia-jui); Ib Friis, C. Melanie Wilmot-Dea

Shrubs or small trees without stinging hairs. Leaves alternate; stipules caducous, intrapetiolar, membranous, deeply 2-lobed; leaf blade papery, 3-veined, often tomentose abaxially, margin dentate or crenate-serrate; cystoliths punctiform. Glomerules axillary, in loose cymose panicles of unisexual flowers (plants monoecious or dioecious); bracts and bracteoles scarious. Male flowers: perianth lobes 5, valvate; stamens 5; rudimentary ovary small, ovoid, densely woolly. Female flowers: perianth minute or absent, 2-lobed, connate at base asymmetrically to shallow cupular pocket, adnate to base of ovary; staminodes absent. Ovary straight, stigma sessile, penicillate-capitate; ovule orthotropous. Achene trigonous-ovoid, with \pm fleshy epicarp and bony endocarp. Seeds with little endosperm; cotyledons elliptic.

About 15 species: tropical and subtropical Asia and Pacific Islands; two species in China.

The stem fibers are used to make ropes and cloth.

- 1a. Branchlets and petioles spreading hirtellous; leaf margin dentate 1. *M. puya*
1b. Branchlets and petioles densely, snow white tomentose; leaf margin crenulate 2. *M. setosa*

1. *Maoutia puya* (W. J. Hooker) Weddell, Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot., sér. 4, 1: 194. 1854.

水丝麻 shui si ma

Boehmeria puya W. J. Hooker, Hooker's J. Bot. Kew Gard. Misc. 3: 316. 1851; *B. esquirolii* H. Léveillé; *B. nivea* var. *crassifolia* C. H. Wright.

Shrubs 1–2 m tall, monoecious. Branchlets zigzagged, branchlets and petiole spreading, brown or gray-brown hirtellous. Stipules linear-lanceolate, 7–15 mm, 2-cleft; petiole 1–6 cm; leaf blade elliptic or ovate, 5–15 \times 3–7 cm, secondary veins 2–4 on each side from distal 1/3, sparsely appressed strigose, adaxially rugose, thickly, snow white tomentose abaxially, base broadly cuneate or rounded, margin coarsely dentate, apex acuminate. Cymes in pairs, 3–5 cm; glomerules lax, 2–3 mm in diam.; bracts triangular or lanceolate, membranous. Male flowers shortly pedicellate, obovoid in bud, 1 mm in diam.; perianth lobes 5, ovate, connate at middle, apex acuminate; rudimentary ovary trigonous-ovoid, ca. 0.4 mm. Female flowers sessile; perianth lobes 2, minute, unequal, \pm connate at base, enclosing base of ovary. Achene ovoid-trigonous, ca. 1.2 mm, appressed strigillose. Fl. Jun–Aug, fr. Sep–Oct.

Thickets, valleys, dry slopes or shady, wet places; 400–2000 m. Guangxi, Guizhou, SW Sichuan, SW Xizang, Yunnan [Bhutan, NE India, Nepal, Sikkim, Vietnam].

Fiber from the stem bast is of high quality due to its strength, sheen, and length; a single fiber may be 18 cm long. The fibers are used to make cloth, fishing nets, and paper.

2. *Maoutia setosa* Weddell, Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot., sér. 4, 1: 194. 1854.

兰屿水丝麻 lan yu shui si ma

Shrubs 1–2 m tall, monoecious. Branchlets and petioles densely snow white tomentose and mixed hirtellous. Leaves often crowded at apex of stem and branches; stipules lanceolate, ca. 7–8 mm, 2-cleft to middle; petiole 1.5–8 cm; leaf blade ovate to suborbicular, 12–19 \times 4.6–14.7 cm, secondary veins 3 or 4 on each side in distal 1/3, velutinous along veins adaxially,

thickly snow white tomentose and appressed strigose abaxially, base obtuse to rounded, margin finely crenulate, apex acuminate. Cymes in pairs, 1.5–4 cm; glomerules lax, 2–3 mm in diam.; bracts elliptic-spatulate, membranous. Achene ovoid-ellipsoid, ca. 1 mm, appressed strigillose. Fl. May–Jul, fr. Aug–Oct.

Thickets, along streams, valleys; below 200 m. Taiwan (Lan Yu, Lu Dao) [Japan (Ryukyu Islands), Philippines].

