

19. PIPTURUS Weddell, Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot., sér. 4, 1: 196. 1854.

落尾木属 *luo wei mu shu*

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

Trees or shrubs evergreen, without stinging hairs. Leaves alternate; stipules early caducous, intrapetiolar, 2-cleft; leaf blade 3–5-veined, often woolly abaxially, margin crenate-serrate; cystoliths punctiform. Inflorescences axillary, glomerules forming spikes or panicles of unisexual flowers (plants dioecious or rarely monoecious); bracts small. Male flowers: perianth lobes 4 or 5, valvate; stamens 4 or 5; filaments inflexed in bud; rudimentary ovary woolly. Female flowers: perianth tube 4- or 5-dentate, thinly fleshy in fruit; staminodes absent. Ovary enclosed, adnate to perianth; style present; stigma filiform, villous on 1 side, deciduous; ovules erect. Achene closely enclosed by slightly enlarged and somewhat fleshy perianth. Seeds with very little endosperm; cotyledons broad.

About 40 species: China (Taiwan), Indonesia, Japan (Ryukyu Islands), Malaysia; N Australia, Madagascar, Mascarene Islands, Pacific Islands (Hawaii, Polynesia); one species in China.

The fibers are used to make ropes.

1. *Pipturus arborescens* (Link) C. B. Robinson, Philipp. J. Sci., C, 6: 13. 1911.

落尾木 *luo wei mu*

Urtica arborescens Link., Enum. Hort. Berol. Alt. 2: 386. 1822; *Pipturus asper* Weddell; *P. fauriei* Yamamoto.

Shrubs or small trees, dioecious. Branchlets, petioles, stipules, and abaxial surface of leaves all densely white woolly. Stipules ovate to orbicular, ca. 1 cm; petiole 1.5–5 cm; leaf

blade ovate, 6–20 × 4–11 cm, 3-veined, secondary veins 3 or 4 pairs, fairly prominent abaxially, velutinous along veins adaxially, base rounded or cuneate, margin serrulate, apex acuminate or shortly caudate. Glomerules globular; bracts and bracteoles ovate, 1–2 mm. Male flowers ovate, puberulent. Female perianth tube ovoid, ca. 1 mm, somewhat swollen on one side of base. Fl. Apr–Jun.

Sunny thickets in secondary forests, low hills; 200–500 m. Taiwan (Hualian, Lan Yu) [Japan (Ryukyu Islands), Philippines].

