

1. CABOMBA Aublet, Hist. Pl. Guiane 1:321. 1775.

水盾草属 shui dun cao shu

Plants with young vegetative parts often rust-colored pubescent, barely mucilaginous. Leaves submersed and floating, short to long petiolate. Submersed leaves conspicuous, basal to apical on stem throughout vegetative period; leaf blade cordate in outline, palmately dissected into dichotomously (trichotomously) branched segments. Floating leaves inconspicuous, alternate, apical on stem only during flowering; leaf blade linear-elliptic or rarely hastate, peltate, base entire or notched. Flowers entomophilous, short pedunculate; perianth showy. Sepals petaloid, obovate. Petals oval, base auriculate. Stamens 3–6, opposite petals. Pistils (1 or)2–4; ovules (1–)3(–5); stigmas capitate. Fruit long pyriform, apically tapered. Seeds ovoid (to subglobose), tuberculate.

Five species: Central, North, and South America; one species in China.

1. *Cabomba caroliniana* A. Gray, Ann. Lyceum Nat. Hist. New York 4: 47. 1837.

竹节水松 zhu jie shui song

Stems to 1–2 m, basally rhizomatous and glabrescent, apically rust colored pubescent. Submersed leaves petiole 0.3–1.5 cm; blade palmately dissected, 2–5 × 2.5–7 cm in overall diam., ultimate segments linear to slightly spatulate, to 1.8 mm wide. Floating leaves petiole 1.5–2 cm; blade 1.4–2 × ca. 0.3 cm. Flowers 0.6–1.5 cm in diam. Sepals white, with margin tinged purple, or yellow, rarely purplish, 5–12 × 2–7 mm, apex obtuse. Petals colored as sepals, 4–12 × 2–5 mm, base clawed, apex broadly obtuse or emarginate; basal nectiferous auricles yellow. Stamens (3–)6, ca. 3.5 mm. Pistils (2–)3, 3.5–4 mm, short pubescent. Fruit 4–7 mm. Seeds 1–3, 1.5–3 × 1–1.5 mm. Fl. and fr. summer–autumn. $2n = 26, 78, 104$.

In rivers. Jiangsu [native to SE North America and S South America].

