

2. CALATHODES J. D. Hooker & Thomson, Fl. Ind. 40. 1855.

鸡爪草属 *ji zhua cao shu*

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Herbs perennial, mostly glabrous. Roots fibrous. Leaves simple, basal ones 1–3, cauline ones 4–6, pentagonal or subpentagonal, palmately 3-sect. Flower solitary, terminal, opening nearly flat. Sepals 5, petaloid, yellow, white, or greenish white, caducous. Petals absent. Stamens numerous; filaments narrowly linear; anthers oblong. Follicles 7–60, subleathery, with lateral veins usually parallel except basally, with or without a projection on abaxial suture. Seeds 8–10, black, glossy, ca. 2 mm, obovoid, smooth. $2n = 16^*$.

Four species: Bhutan, China, Sikkim; four species (three endemic) in China.

1a. Sepals yellow.

- 2a. Carpels with a projection inserted near base of abaxial suture 3. *C. unciiformis*
- 2b. Carpels without a projection 1. *C. palmata*

1b. Sepals white or greenish white.

- 3a. Carpels 7–12(–15) 2. *C. oxycarpa*
- 3b. Carpels 30–60 4. *C. polycarpa*

1. *Calathodes palmata* J. D. Hooker & Thomson, Fl. Ind. 41. 1855.

黄花鸡爪草 *huang hua ji zhua cao*

Stems 30–45 cm tall, usually simple. Basal and proximal cauline leaves subglabrous; petiole 7–8.5 cm; leaf blade 2.6–4 × 4.4–5.8 cm; central segment rhombic, 3-fid, lobulate, margin serrate; lateral segments obliquely flabellate, unequally 2-parted. Flowers ca. 3 cm in diam. Sepals yellow, subelliptic, ca. 1.5 cm, glabrous. Stamens ca. 1/2 as long as sepals. Follicles ca. 18, flat, obliquely obovate, ca. 9 × 4.5 mm; persistent style ca. 1 mm; projection absent on abaxial suture. Fl. Jun.

Mountain forests; 2500–3500 m. SE Xizang [Bhutan, Nepal, Sikkim].

2. *Calathodes oxycarpa* Sprague, Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew 1919: 403. 1919.

鸡爪草 *ji zhua cao*

Calathodes palmata J. D. Hooker & Thomson var. *appendiculata* Brühl.

Stems 20–45 cm tall, simple or branched. Basal and proximal cauline leaves 3; petiole 6–10 cm; leaf blade 2–3 × 3.2–5 cm; central segment broadly rhombic, 3-fid, lobulate, margin serrate; lateral segments obliquely flabellate, unequally 2-parted nearly to base. Flowers ca. 1.8 cm in diam. Sepals white, obovate or elliptic, 9–10 × 4–6 mm, glabrous. Stamens 3.5–7.5 mm. Follicles 7–12(–15), 7–14 × ca. 4.5 mm; persistent style erect, 1–1.7 mm; projection inserted at middle of abaxial suture. Fl. May–Jul, fr. Jul–Aug.

• Mountain forests, grassy slopes; 2400–3200 m. W Hubei, Sichuan, W Yunnan.

The entire plant is used medicinally for treating rheumatism and improving circulation.

3. *Calathodes unciiformis* W. T. Wang, Bull. Bot. Res., Harbin 16: 165. 1996.

多果鸡爪草 *duo guo ji zhua cao*

Stems 30–40 cm tall, glabrous, apically few branched or simple. Petiole 3–10 cm; leaf blade 4–8 × 5–11 cm, abaxially glabrous, adaxially scabrous or minutely strigillose at veins; central segment rhombic, margin incised dentate; lateral segments obliquely flabellate, unequally 2-parted. Flowers ca. 2.5 cm in diam. Sepals yellow, narrowly obovate or elliptic, ca. 1 cm, glabrous, apex rounded. Stamens ca. 6.5 mm. Follicles 35–50, 6.5–8 × 4–5 mm; persistent style ca. 0.8 mm; projection inserted near base of abaxial suture. Fl. Jun–Jul, fr. Jul–Aug.

• Mountain forests, open slopes, valleys; 1800–2000 m. W Guizhou, SW Hubei, NE Yunnan.

4. *Calathodes polycarpa* Ohwi, Acta Phytotax. Geobot. 2: 153. 1933.

台湾鸡爪草 *tai wan ji zhua cao*

Stems 30–40 cm tall, glabrous. Petiole 7–13.5 cm; leaf blade 4–5.5 × 6.5–9 cm, glabrous on both surfaces; segments serrate at margin, apex acute. Flowers 1.8–3 cm in diam. Sepals white or greenish white, obovate or elliptic, 1.2–1.6 cm × 6–9 mm. Stamens 6–8.5 mm. Follicles 30–60, 7–10 mm; persistent style 1.5–2 mm; projection present on abaxial suture.

• Open slopes at high elevations. Taiwan.

Records of this species from mainland China (e.g., in FRPS) are referable to *Calathodes unciiformis*.

