

25. CASSYTHA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 35. 1753.

无根藤属 *wu gen teng shu*

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Calodium Loureiro; *Volutella* Forsskål.

Vines twining, viscid, parasitic on various trees and shrubs by means of haustoria. Stem green or gray-brown, filiform, branched. Leaves reduced to minute scales. Flowers small, bisexual (plants rarely dioecious or nearly dioecious due to abortion), inserted in stalked or stalkless scalelike bracts, each with 2 bracteoles adnate to perianth base, all arranged into a spicate, capitate, or racemose inflorescence. Perianth tube turbinate or ovoid, contracted on top after anthesis; perianth lobes 6, in 2 series, outer 3 very small. Fertile stamens 9, rarely those of 2nd whorl reduced to narrow staminodes; filaments of 1st and 2nd whorls eglandular, those of 3rd whorl each with 2 subsessile glands; anthers 2-celled; cells of 1st and 2nd whorls introrse, those of 3rd whorl extrorse. Staminodes 3, of innermost whorl, stalkless or stalked. Ovary nearly not included in perianth tube when in flower, wholly included after anthesis due to dilated perianth tube contracted on top; style inconspicuous; stigma small or capitate, subsessile. Fruit included in dilated fleshy perianth tube, free; perianth tube with orifice and persistent lobes on top. Seeds thinly membranous or leathery; cotyledons fleshy, always unequal, ± hardened when mature, appressed, or separated when young but entirely connate when mature.

Between 15 and 20 species: tropical regions, with most species in Australia, a few in Africa, and one pantropical; one species in China.

1. *Cassytha filiformis* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 35. 1753.

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Stem green-brown, filiform, slightly woody, rusty pubescent when young but sparsely pubescent or glabrous when mature. Leaves reduced to minute scales. Spike ca. 2.5 cm, densely rusty pubescent; bracts and bracteoles brown, minute, broadly ovate, ca. 1 mm, ciliate. Flowers white, small, less than 2 mm, sessile. Perianth lobes 6, in 2 series, outer 3 small, orbicular, ciliate, inner 3 larger, ovate, all pubescent outside, subglabrous inside. Fertile stamens 9; filaments of 1st whorl subpetaloid, those of 2nd and 3rd whorls filiform, of 3rd whorl each with 2 stalkless glands, others glandless; anthers 2-celled; cells of 1st

and 2nd whorls introrse, those of 3rd whorl extrorse. Staminodes 3, stalked. Ovary ovoid, subglabrous; style short, slightly angled; stigma small, capitate. Fruit small, ovoid, included in dilated and fleshy perianth tube after anthesis, free, with persistent lobes on top. Fl. and fr. May–Dec.

Thickets or sparse forests on mountain slopes; near sea level to 1600 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hunan, Jiangxi, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [tropical regions of Africa, Asia, and Australia].

This pantropical species is harmful to its host plants. The whole plant is used by local people as a diuretic and as a paste for paper-making.

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