

## 12. DIPLOCLISIA Miers, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 2, 7: 37, 42. 1851.

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Woody vines; branches often pendulous. Leaf blade not peltate to conspicuously peltate, leathery, palmately veined. Inflorescences superaxillary umbel-like cymes on leafy shoots or panicles on old leafless stems. Male flowers: sepals 6 in 2 whorls, with black stripes when dry, outer sepals usually narrower than inner; petals 6, with sides folded inward around opposite filament; stamens 6, free, filaments swollen in upper half, anthers subglobose, dehiscent transversely. Female flowers: sepals and petals as in male flowers, petals usually 2-lobed at apex; staminodes 6, anthers very small; carpels 3, styles short, stigmas recurved, flattened with margins dentate. Drupes obovate or narrowly obovate and curved, style scar near base; endocarp bony, narrow at base, curved, abaxially ornamented with many transverse ridges on both surfaces; condyle septiform. Seed horseshoe-shaped; embryo narrow; radicle much shorter than foliaceous cotyledons; endosperm scanty.

Two species: tropical Asia; two species (one endemic) in China.

- 1a. Inflorescences superaxillary on leafy shoots, umbel-like cymes; drupe obovate, ca. 1 cm; axillary buds 2, upper bud or inflorescence inserted above lower ..... 1. *D. affinis*
- 1b. Inflorescences on old leafless stems, elongated, thyrsoid; drupe narrowly obovate, 1.3–2 cm; axillary bud 1, inserted normally in axil ..... 2. *D. glaucescens*

**1. *Diploclisia affinis*** (Oliver) Diels in Engler, Pflanzenr. 46 (IV.94): 227. 1910.

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*Cocculus affinis* Oliver, Hooker's Icon. Pl. t. 1760. 1888; *Diploclisia chinensis* Merrill.

Woody vines to 8 m. Old branches reddish brown or dark brown, lenticels many, longitudinally dehiscent, glabrous; current year's branches yellowish, striate, axillary buds 2, upper bud inserted above lower. Petiole almost equal to or longer than lamina; leaf blade not or only slightly peltate, triangular-oblanceolate or rhombic-oblanceolate, sometimes rhomboidal or broadly ovate, 3.5–9 cm or longer, slightly wider than long, leathery, base subtruncate to shallowly cordate, sometimes rotund or sharply mucronate, margin conspicuously or inconspicuously undulate, apex mucronate or obtuse and apiculate, palmately 5-veined, with reticulation prominent on both surfaces. Inflorescences superaxillary on leafy shoots, in series with one above other, umbel-like cymes, 3- to many flowered; peduncles straight, 2–2.5 cm. Male flowers: sepals elliptic to broadly ovate, 2.5–3 mm, outer whorl ca. 1.5 mm wide, inner whorl 2–2.5 mm wide; petals ovate-rhombic, with sides folded inward at base around filaments; stamens 2–2.5 mm. Female flowers unknown. Drupes red, obovate, 8–10 × ca. 7 mm. Fl. Apr–May, fr. Jul–Sep.

• Forest margins, sparse forests; ca. 400 m. Anhui, Fujian (Yong'an), E and N Guangdong, N Guangxi, N Guizhou, W Hubei, NW Hunan, Jiangxi, E and SE Sichuan, Yunnan, E and S Zhejiang.

The supra-axillary inflorescences are unique at least among the Chinese members of the Menispermaceae.

**2. *Diploclisia glaucescens*** (Blume) Diels in Engler, Pflanzenr. 46(IV.94): 225. 1910.

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*Cocculus glaucescens* Blume, Bijdr. 25. 1825; *C. kunstleri* King; *C. macrocarpus* Wight & Arnott; *Diploclisia kunstleri* (King) Diels; *D. macrocarpa* (Wight & Arnott) Miers.

Large woody vines, to 20 m or longer. Stems up to 10 cm in diam.; branches and leaves rather similar to *Diploclisia affinis*, except axillary bud only 1. Petiole usually much longer than lamina; leaf blade not peltate to conspicuously peltate, glaucescent abaxially, leathery. Inflorescences cauliflorous, on old leafless stems, panicles, usually several to many fascicled, ± pendulous, 10–30 cm or longer; flowers light yellow, slightly fragrant. Male flowers: sepals 2–2.5 mm, marked by a dark reticulum, outer whorl elliptic, inner whorl broadly elliptic or broadly elliptic-obovate; petals obovate or rhombic, 1–1.5 mm, apex mucronate or emarginate; stamens ca. 2 mm. Female flowers: sepals and petals as in male flowers except petals 2-lobed at apex; staminodes filamentous; carpels 1.5–2 mm. Drupes yellowish red, narrowly oblong-obovate, 1.3–2(–3) cm, base curved. Fl. Apr, fr. Aug.

Forests. E and S Guangdong, NW Guangxi, Hainan, S and SE Yunnan [India, Indonesia, Myanmar, New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand].

This species is used medicinally.

