

6. **FIBRAUREA** Loureiro, Fl. Cochinch. 2: 600, 626. 1790.

天仙藤属 tian xian teng shu

Vines. Roots and stems with yellow wood. Petiole long, swollen at both ends; leaf blade ovate or oblong, not peltate, palmately 3–5-veined. Inflorescences often on older leafless stems, lax panicles. Male flowers: sepals 8–12, in 3 or 4 whorls, free, imbricate, outer 2–6 minute, slightly unequal, inner 6 conspicuously larger, subequal, fleshy, margins thin; petals absent; stamens 3 or 6, free, filament thickened, anthers small with pollen cells divaricate, dehiscing longitudinally and obliquely; pistillodes absent. Female flowers: sepals and petals as in male; staminodes 3 or 6, narrowly oblong to elliptic; carpels 3, erect, saccate, ovoid, style extremely short, subterminal. Drupes 1–3, orangish yellow, oblong-obovate to ellipsoidal, style scar subterminal; exocarp smooth; endocarp ± woody, abaxially protuberant, adaxially with a narrow longitudinal groove; condyle forming narrow groove adaxially. Seed subellipsoid; embryo horseshoe-shaped in transverse section, embedded in endosperm; cotyledons broad and extremely thin, foliaceous, much longer than radicle.

Two (to five) species: India (Nicobar Islands) to S China and Philippines; one species in China.

The other much more widespread species, *Fibraurea tinctoria* Loureiro, differs by having 6, not 3, stamens and thicker-walled endocarps. Both species yield a yellow dye.

1. **Fibraurea recisa** Pierre, Fl. Forest. Cochinch. 2: t. 111. 1885.

天仙藤 tian xian teng

Large woody vines up to 10 m or longer; wood bright yellow. Stems brown; branchlets and petioles longitudinally striate. Leaves inconspicuously peltate; petiole (4–)5–14 cm, leaf blade oblong-ovate, sometimes broadly ovate or broadly ovoid-subglobose, 10–25 × 2.5–9(–13) cm, leathery, glabrous, base rounded or obtuse, sometimes subcordate or cuneate, apex subcuspidate or acutely acuminate, palmately 3–5-veined, usually with 3 pairs of distal lateral veins prominent abaxially.

Inflorescences arising from leafless old stems, paniculate; male inflorescences lax, up to 30 cm. Male flowers: pedicels 2–3 mm; perianth variable, outermost whorl minute, ca. 0.3 mm, inner whorl 0.6–1 mm, innermost whorl elliptic, concave, ca. 2.5 × 1.5–1.8 mm; stamens 3, ca. 2 mm, filaments thick and broad, pollen cells subreniform. Female flowers not seen. Drupes yellow, oblong-elliptic, rarely subobovate, 1.8–3 cm; exocarp wrinkled when dry. Fl. spring and summer, fr. autumn.

Forests. SW Guangdong, S Guangxi, SE Yunnan [Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam].

This species is used medicinally.

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