

15. SINOMENIUM Diels in Engler, *Pflanzenr.* 46(IV.94): 254. 1910 [“*Sinomenia*”].

风龙属 feng long shu

Woody vines. Leaf blade not peltate, palmately veined. Inflorescences axillary, paniculate. Male flowers: sepals 6 in 2 whorls, imbricate in bud, extending outward when blooming, outer whorl narrower; petals 6, with basal margins inflexed and clasping opposite stamen; stamens 9, rarely 12, free, anther large, squared globose, dehiscing nearly apically. Female flowers: sepals and petals as in male flowers; staminodes 9; carpels 3, saccate-semiovate, style curved outward, stigma expanded and lobed. Drupes oblate, slightly oblique, style scar near base; endocarp rather flattened, with both sides concave and smooth, abaxially with 2 rows of spines projecting along midrib, ornamented with branching ridges in a row on both surfaces; condyle lamella-shaped. Seed half-moon-shaped; endosperm rich; cotyledons shorter than radicle.

One species: China, N India, Japan, Nepal, N Thailand.

1. *Sinomenium acutum* (Thunberg) Rehder & E. H. Wilson in Sargent, *Pl. Wilson.* 1: 387. 1913.

风龙 feng long

Menispermum acutum Thunberg in Murray, *Syst. Veg.*, ed. 14, 892. 1784; *Cocculus diversifolius* Miquel (1867), not Candolle (1817); *C. diversifolius* var. *cinereus* Diels; *C. heterophyllus* Hemsley & E. H. Wilson; *M. diversifolium* Gagnepain; *M. diversifolium* var. *molle* Gagnepain; *Sinomenium acutum* var. *cinereum* Diels ex Rehder & E. H. Wilson; *S. diversifolium* Diels.

Woody vines, to more than 20 m. Old stems gray, bark irregularly and longitudinally striate. Branches terete, regularly striate, puberulent to glabrous. Petiole 5–15 cm, striate, glabrous or puberulent; leaf blade cordate-ovate to broadly ovate, sometimes (3–)5–9-lobed, 6–15 cm or longer, leathery to papery, tomentose when young, or only glabrous adaxially and puberulent abaxially, usually glabrous when old, base often deeply cordate with narrow sinus, sometimes subtruncate or rounded, margin entire, lobes pointed or obtuse, apex acuminate or mucronate, palmately [3–]5(–7)-veined, reticulation conspicuously prominent abaxially. Inflorescences axillary, lax conical panicles, to 30 cm, usually shorter than 20 cm; rachis puberulent or tomentose; bracts linear-lanceolate. Male flowers: bracteoles 2, closely adnate to sepals; sepals yellowish green, abaxially puberulent, outer whorl oblong, 2–2.5 mm, inner whorl subovate, subequal to outer whorl; petals slightly fleshy, 0.7–1 mm; stamen 1.6–2 mm. Female flowers: sepals and petals as in male flower; staminodes filamentous; carpels glabrous. Drupes red to dark purple or blue-black, 5–6 mm in diam. or slightly larger. Fl. summer, fr. autumn.

Forests. Anhui, N Guangdong, N Guangxi, Guizhou, Henan, Hubei, Jiangxi, S Shanxi, Sichuan, SE Yunnan, Zhejiang [N India, Japan, Nepal, N Thailand].

Sinomenium acutum contains the alkaloid sinomenine, which is used to treat arthritis and other inflammatory conditions.

