9. SYCOPSIS Oliver, Trans. Linn. Soc. London 23: 83. 1860.

水丝梨属 shui si li shu

Shrubs or small trees, evergreen; branches with 1 prophyll, glabrous or stellately lepidote; buds naked. Leaves petiolate; stipules minute, caducous, leaving small scars; leaf blade leathery, base rounded to cuneate, margin entire or shallowly toothed towards leaf apex, venation brochidodromous, sometimes with 3 basal veins, lepidote, glabrescent. Plants andromonoecious. Inflorescence a short, dense, spike, terminal on short lateral branches, pedunculate, sometimes recurved, flowers spiral, terminal flower absent; each flower with a large simple bract and without bracteoles. Flowers male or bisexual. Sepals 5 or 6, irregular. Petals absent. Stamens 5–10, inserted on margin of floral cup; filaments equal or unequal; anthers ellipsoid, red, thecae 2-sporangiate, each dehiscing by a longitudinal slit, connective apiculate. Male flowers: floral cup short, rudimentary ovary present or absent. Bisexual flowers: floral cup urceolate, stellately lepidote. Ovary superior, but enclosed by floral cup; ovules 1 per locule; styles subulate, slender, divergent; stigmas decurrent. Capsules arranged spirally along rachis, usually ovoid-globose, woody, tomentose, dehiscing by two 2-lobed valves, persistent floral cup shorter than capsule, splitting irregularly. Seeds narrowly ovoid; endosperm thick; embryo straight. 2*n* = 36.

Two or three species: China, NE India (Assam); two species (both endemic) in China.

1a. Leaf blade without 3 basal veins, abaxially nearly glabrous; persistent floral cup pubescent, ca. 4 mm ..... 1. *S. sinensis*
1b. Leaf blade with 3 basal veins, abaxially pubescent; persistent floral cup lepidote, to ca. 2 mm ..... 2. *S. triplinervia*

1. Sycopsis sinensis Oliver, Hooker's Icon. Pl. 20: t. 1931. 1890.

水丝梨 shui si li

Distylium formosanum Kanehira; *Sycopsis formosana* (Kanehira) Kanehira & Hatusima; *S. sinensis* var. *integrifolia* Diels.

Trees to 14 m tall; young branches lepidote, older growth drying dark brown, glabrous. Petiole 0.8–1.8 cm; leaf blade narrowly ovate or lanceolate, 5–12 × 2.5–4 cm, discolorous, abaxially sparsely stellately pubescent, glabrescent, adaxially shiny, stellately pubescent when young, soon glabrous, base cuneate or obtuse, margin entire or distally serrulate, apex acuminate; lateral veins 6 or 7 on each side. Inflorescences 7- or 8-flowered. Floral bracts brown, ovate-rounded, 6–8 mm, stellately pubescent. Male flowers: floral cup short, reduced pistil pubescent. Bisexual flowers: floral cup 1.7–2 mm, pubescent. Sepals ovate. Filaments slender, 1–1.2 cm; anthers red, 1.8–2 mm, apex acute. Ovary pubescent; styles 5 mm, coiled backwards. Capsules 8–10 mm, villous, dehiscing irregularly; persistent floral cup 3–4 mm; persistent styles 1–2 mm. Seeds 5–7 mm. Fl. Apr–Jun, fr. Jul–Sep.

● Mountain thickets, evergreen forests; 1300–1500 m. Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang.

2. Sycopsis triplinervia H. T. Chang, Acta Sci. Nat. Univ. Sunyatsen. 1960(1): 41. 1960.

三脉水丝梨 san mai shui si li

Shrubs; young branches stellately tomentose, older growth lepidote, glabrescent. Petiole 6–13 mm, stellately pubescent; leaf blade oblong or obovate-oblong, 5–14 × 2–6 cm, discolorous, abaxially sparsely stellately pubescent, adaxially shiny and stellately pubescent along veins, base rounded, margin entire or occasionally 1–3-toothed, apex acute; lateral veins 2 or 3 on each side, distal leaf blades 3-veined at base. Inflorescences ca. 1.5 cm; 10–12-flowered, peduncle 3–5 mm, 0.8–1 cm in fruit. Male and bisexual flowers sessile. Floral cup 1.2–1.5 mm, lepidote. Sepals ovate, as long as floral cup. Stamens 8–10; anthers 2–3 mm, connective produced. Styles 1.2–1.5 mm, pubescent. Capsules 10–12 mm, tomentose and villous; persistent floral cup 1.8–2 mm, lepidote; persistent styles 3–4 mm. Seeds ca. 6 mm. Fl. Apr–Jun, fr. Jun–Sep.

● Forests; 800–1000 m. Sichuan, NE Yunnan (Daguan Xian, Yiliang Xian).

It is uncertain whether this species belongs to the genus *Sycopsis*. Further study is needed.