
朱缨花属 zhu ying hua shu

Shrubs or small trees, usually unarmed. Leaves bipinnate, eglandular; stipules often persistent, or sometimes spinescent, rarely absent; pinnae 1 to several pairs; leaflets opposite, small and numerous, or larger and from few pairs to only 1. Heads globose and axillary, or racemes terminal. Flowers (5 or)6-merous, polygamous. Calyx campanulate, toothed. Petals united to middle; middle flowers sometimes heteromorpic with an elongated tubular corolla. Stamens numerous (to 100), red or white, ± united into a tube and long exerted, showy; anthers mostly glandular hairy. Ovary sessile, ovules numerous; style filiform. Legume slightly falcate, strap-shaped, flat, rigidly leathery, often narrowed to base, margin thickened, 2-valved, valves elastically opening from apex to base, continuous inside. Seeds obvoid or orbicular, compressed, testa hard, with pleurogram, without aril.

About 200 species: mainly in tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas, a few in India, Madagascar, and Myanmar; two species (one introduced) in China.

Calliandra riparia Pittier, native to South America, is not treated here because it is only cultivated in China and not commonly so.

1a. Stipules spinelike ............................................................................................................................................................ 1.
1b. Stipules not spinelike, ovate-lanceolate ............................................................................................................ 2.


云南朱缨花 yun nan zhu ying hua


Shrubs, 1–2 m tall. Branchlets terete. Stipules spinelike, 0.5–1.5 cm; petiole 0.4–5 cm, glabrous; pinnae 1 pair, 2–5.5 cm, with a pair of large sessile leaflets at apex and an odd one much smaller below on outside, all with a gland on rachis at base; leaflets oblong to elliptic, 3–15 × 1.5–7.5 cm, subleathery, base cuneate, often oblique, apex acuminate. Heads axillary or on old branches; peduncles 3–4 cm. Flowers homogeneous, tetramerous. Calyx campanulate, ca. 1.3 mm, slightly 4-toothed. Corolla funnel-shaped, ca. 7 mm. Stamens numerous; filaments white. Ovary glabrous. Legume strap-shaped, flat, 10–14 × 2–2.4 cm, margin thickened, base attenuate, apex rounded, oblique, mucronate, dehiscent from apex to base. Seeds 4. Fl. Aug–Oct, fr. Jan–Mar.

Thickets; 300–400 m. W Yunnan (Yingjiang) [India].

2. Calliandra haematocephala Hasskarl, Retzia 1: 216. 1855.

朱缨花 zhu ying hua

Shrubs or small trees, deciduous, 1–3 m tall. Branchlets brown, cylindric, rough. Stipules persistent, ovate-lanceolate; petiole 1–2.5 cm; pinnae 1 pair, 8–13 cm; petiolules ca. 1 mm; leaflets 7–9 pairs, obliquely lanceolate, 2–4 cm × 7–15 mm, sparsely pilose along margin, midvein close to upper margin, base oblique, apex obtuse, mucronate. Heads axillary, ca. 3 cm in diam. (including filaments); peduncles 1–3.5 cm. Calyx campanulate, ca. 2 mm. Corolla purplish; tube 3.5–5 mm, 5-lobed; lobes reflexed, ca. 3 mm, glabrous. Stamens numerous, scarlet, very brilliant; staminal tube white, ca. 6 cm, mouth inside with a subulate appendix; filaments deep red, ca. 2 cm. Legume dull brown, linear-oblancoate, 6–11 cm × 5–13 mm, valves elastically open from apex to base along sutures when ripe, reflexed. Seeds 5 or 6, brown, oblong, 7–10 × ca. 4 mm. Fl. Aug–Sep, fr. Oct–Nov.

Cultivated in gardens of Fujian, Guangdong, Taiwan [native to South America].

This plant is grown as an ornamental.