
闭荚藤属  bi jia teng shu

Wu Delin (吴德邻 Wu Te-lin); Mats Thulin

Woody climbers. Leaves pinnately 3-foliolate; stipules caducous; leaflets large, stipellate. Racemes axillary and terminal. Flowers borne in clusters of 2 or 3 at small nodes; bracts 2, caducous; bracteoles obovate, sheathing base of calyx, persistent. Calyx lobes longer than tube, upper 2 connate into a broad entire lip. Standard suborbicular, very shortly clawed, not auriculate; wings obliquely oblong; keel broad, slightly incurved, obtuse, subequal to wings. Stamens diadelphous; vexillary stamen free, remainder connate; anthers linear, versatile. Ovary sessile; ovules numerous; style shortly filiform, incurved, not barbate; stigma capitate. Legumes oblong-linear, compressed, narrowly winged along upper suture, indehiscent. Seeds numerous, oblong, transversely arranged; hilum lateral, small; funicle filiform.

Two species: Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia; one species in China.


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Woody climbers, young parts pubescent. Leaf rachis 6–15 cm; stipels linear, 7–8 mm; leaflets subrhombic, elliptic, or ovate, 8–14 × 6–12.5 cm, lateral ones smaller than terminal one, appressed pubescent abaxially, glabrous adaxially, base rounded, apex acuminate. Racemes 30 cm or more. Bracts ovate-lanceolate, 7–8 mm, ciliate; bracteoles 5–7 mm. Calyx campanulate, 4-lobed; tube 4–5 mm; lobes 7–12 mm. Corolla purplish, 10–18 mm. Legumes blackish, 10–12 × 2.5–3 cm, thinly leathery, glabrous. Seeds brown, reniform, ca. 5 × 2.5 mm.

Semi-evergreen rain forests; below 900 m. SE Xizang (Mêdog) [Bhutan, India].