

Chen Dezhao (陈德昭 陈德昭), Zhang Dianxiang (张奠湘); Mats Thulin

Prostrate or climbing herbs. Leaves 1-foliolate; stipules very caducous; stipels persistent. Racemes axillary or in a few-branched terminal panicle. Flowers solitary, paired or clustered at nodes of rachis of inflorescence; bracts deciduous or persistent; bracteoles persistent. Calyx tube campanulate, 5-toothed; upper 2 teeth connate from middle downward. Corolla exserted; petals subequal in length, clawed; standard obovate, elliptic, or suborbicular, with 2 minute, inflexed basal auricles; wings falcate or obovate-oblong, slightly adherent to keel at base; keel falcate or narrowly oblong, incurved, without auricle or nearly so. Stamens diadelphous, vexillary stamen free; anthers uniform, dorsifixed. Ovary sessile or subsessile; ovules numerous; style incurved, glabrous; stigma small, capitate. Legumes narrowly oblong or linear, compressed, septate between seeds. Seeds orbicular or oblong, with a thick strophiole at small hilum.

About four species: China, India, Thailand; one species (endemic) in China.


广西土黄芪 guang xi tu huang qi

Climbing herbs, sparsely hirsute. Leaves 1-foliolate; petiole 1.5–3.5 cm; stipels subulate, as long as petiolules; petiolules 3–4 mm; leaflets papery, narrowly oblong or narrowly lanceolate, 12–19 × 2.3–3 cm, rough on both surfaces, base rounded or slightly cordate, margin slightly revolute, apex acuminate or obtuse; midrib elevated abaxially, prominent adaxially, lateral veins 9–15 pairs, raised on both surfaces, at an angle of 50–60°, veinlets reticulate, slightly prominent on both surfaces. Racemes axillary, 5–15 cm, sometimes forming panicles with 1 or 2 branches. Flowers pedicellate, solitary or paired; bracts small, caducous; bracteoles ovate-lanceolate. Calyx ca. 7 mm; teeth narrowly lanceolate, upper 2 as long as tube, lower 3 slightly longer. Corolla light yellow; standard broadly elliptic, ca. 10.5 × 8 mm, apex emarginate, with 2 inflexed, short basal auricles, claw ca. 2 mm; wings obovate-oblong, ca. 9 × 4 mm, apex obtuse or rounded, with long, acute basal auricle, claw ca. 3 mm; keel falcate, ca. 8 × 2.5 mm, arcuate and ± connate on back, apex slightly acute, base without auricle, claw ca. 4 mm. Anthers broadly oblong, ca. 0.5 mm. Ovary narrowly oblong, slightly compressed, hirsute. Legumes narrowly oblong or linear, compressed, 4.5–5 × 0.5–0.6 cm, base rounded, apex with a 2–3 mm beak, valves sparsely hirsute. Seeds 6–8, blackish brown, shiny, orbicular, ca. 3 mm in diam. Fl. Aug.

Mountain slopes, thick grass, near roads. E and NW Guangxi (Mengshan, Tian‘e), SE Yunnan.