74. **PONGAMIA** Adanson, Fam. Pl. 2: 322, 593. 1763 [“Pongam”], nom. cons.

水黄皮属 shui huang pi shu

Zhang Dianxiang (张奠湘); Les Pedley

Trees. Stipules caducous. Leaves imparipinnate; stipels absent. Inflorescences axillary, racemose; bracts small, caducous. Calyx campanulate to calathiform, apex truncate. Corolla longer than sepals; standard orbicular, with 2 calluses on claw, basally auriculate; wings oblong, oblique, auriculate; keels falcate, apically adherent, apex truncate. Stamens 10, diadelphous; vexillary stamen free from other 9; anthers basifixed. Ovary subsessile, with 2 ovules; style inflexed, glabrous; stigma capitate. Seed 1 per legume.

One species: pantropical and extending into subtropics.


水黄皮 shui huang pi


Trees, 8–15 m tall. Branchlets sometimes tomentose, glabrescent, with dense minute cinereous lenticels. Leaves 5- or 7-foliolate; rachis 20–26 cm, including petiole 5–6 cm; petiolules 6–8 mm; leaflet blades ovate, broadly elliptic, or oblong, 5–10 × 4–8 cm, leathery, base rounded, broadly cuneate, or truncate, apex rounded to acuminate. Inflorescences axillary, racemose, 15–20 cm, rachis nodes usually with 2 flowers. Pedicel 5–8 mm; bracteoles 2, inserted at base of calyx, ovate. Calyx campanulate to calathiform, ca. 3 mm, outside sparsely yellowish pubescent; teeth obscure. Corolla white or pink, 1.2–1.4 cm; standard orbicular, outside thinly sericeous, base auriculate, claw 2-callose; wings oblong, oblique, base auriculate; keels falcate, apically adherent, apex truncate. Stamens 10, vexillary stamen distinct, others connate; anthers basifixed. Ovary subsessile, with 2 ovules; style inflexed, glabrous; stigma capitate. Legume ellipsoid to oblong, flat, 4–5 × 1.5–2.5 cm, indehiscent, covered with obscure warts, apex shortly beaked. Seed reniform. Fl. May–Jun, fr. Aug–Oct. 2n = 22.

Coastal areas along beaches or riverbanks, thickets; near sea level. Fujian, Guangdong, Hainan, Taiwan [Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; C Africa, Australia, Central America, Pacific islands].

_Pongamia pinnata_ is represented in China by the typical variety. Another variety, _Pongamia pinnata var. xerocarpa_ (Hasskarl) Alston, occurs in S and SE Asia.