

4. SARACA Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 2: 469; Mant. Pl. 1: 13, 98. 1767.

无忧花属 wu you hua shu

Chen Dezha (陈德昭 Chen Te-chao), Zhang Dianxiang (张奠湘); Ding Hou

Trees. Leaves abruptly pinnate, with few pairs of leaflets, leathery; stipules 2, usually united to a conical sheath, caducous; petiole robust, with glandular nodes. Corymbose panicles axillary or terminal; involucre caducous; bract 1, deciduous or persistent, smaller or larger than bracteoles, hairy or glabrous; bracteoles 2, usually persistent, subopposite, colored. Flowers bisexual or unisexual, yellowish to deep red, with short pedicels. Calyx tubular; tube elongated, slightly inflated in upper part, with a disk at apex; lobes 4, rarely 5 or 6, petaloid, ovate-oblong, slightly unequal in size, imbricate. Petals absent. Stamens 4–10, all perfect or 1 or 2 reduced, inserted in disk on throat of calyx tube; filaments free, elongated, often reflexed in bud; anthers oblong or suborbicular, dorsifixed, cells opening lengthwise. Ovary compressed, oblong, hairy or glabrous, shortly stalked, stalk adnate to calyx tube; ovules few to more than 10; style filiform; stigma terminal, capitate. Legume compressed, oblong, slightly curved and oblique, leathery to rather woody, 2-valved. Seeds 1–8, compressed, elliptic to ovoid; testa thin, crustaceous; radicle small, straight.

About 20 species: tropical Asia; two species in China.

- 1a. Perfect stamens 4; bracts and bracteoles small, equal in size, not longer than 5 mm, persistent; pedicels articulate 1. *S. griffithiana*
1b. Stamens 8–10 including 1 or 2 reduced; bracts and bracteoles larger, usually longer than 1 cm, bracts much larger than bracteoles, deciduous or nearly persistent; pedicels not articulate 2. *S. dives*

1. *Saraca griffithiana* Prain, J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, Pt. 2, Nat. Hist. 66: 491. 1897.

云南无忧花 yun nan wu you hua

Trees, to 18 m tall. Petiolules robust, compressed, 4–6 mm; leaflets 4–6 pairs, oblong or obovate-oblong, 23–36 × 6.5–10 cm, papery, midvein robust, raised on both surfaces, lateral veins 11 or 12 pairs, base rounded or cuneate, apex rounded. Inflorescence axillary, with crowded, short branches, forming nearly a sphere ca. 13 cm in diam. at anthesis; peduncles and rachis yellowish green puberulent; bracts and bracteoles persistent, ovate, equal in size, ca. 3 mm, ciliate, bracts spreading, bracteoles straight, enclosing pedicels. Flowers numerous, crowded, with long pedicels, articulate between calyx and apex of pedicels. Calyx tube shorter than pedicels, 1.5–1.8 cm; lobes ovate, ca. 1 cm, apex obtuse or slightly acute. Perfect stamens 4, ca. 3 mm; anthers subovoid, small, 1.5–1.8 mm. Ovary compressed, ca. 7 mm, thin, densely yellowish green puberulent; style ca. 2.8 cm; stigma small. Fruit not seen.

Dense or sparse forests, mountain slopes, along valleys, by streams; 300–1200 m. W Yunnan (Yingjiang) [Myanmar].

2. *Saraca dives* Pierre, Fl. Forest. Cochinch. t. 386B. 1899.

中国无忧花 zhong guo wu you hua

Saraca chinensis Merrill & Chun.

Trees, 5–20 m tall. Trunk ca. 25 cm d.b.h. Petiolules 7–12 mm; leaflets 5 or 6 pairs, slightly purplish red when young, pendulous, narrowly elliptic, ovate-lanceolate, or narrowly obovate, 15–35 × 5–12 cm, subleathery, lateral veins 8–11 pairs, lowest pair often smaller, base cuneate, apex acuminate, acute, or obtuse. Inflorescence axillary, larger; rachis hairy or glabrous; involucre caducous, broadly ovate, large, hairy; bracts caducous or late deciduous, ovate, lanceolate, or oblong, 1.5–5 × 0.6–2 cm, lowest one largest, gradually smaller upward, hairy or glabrous; bracteoles equal to bracts in shape but much smaller. Flowers bisexual or unisexual, yellow, base of calyx

lobes, disk, stamens, and style becoming red; pedicels shorter than calyx tube, not articulate. Calyx tube 1.5–3 cm; lobes 4(–6), oblong, ciliate. Stamens 8–10 including 1 or 2 often reduced to subulate; filaments exerted; anthers oblong, 3–4 mm. Ovary slightly curved, glabrous or hairy along sutures and stalk. Legume brownish, compressed, 22–30 × 5–7 cm, valves twisted. Seeds 5–9, unequal in shape, shallowly depressed sulcate at middle of both surfaces. Fl. Apr–May, fr. Jul–Oct.

Dense or sparse forests, riversides, along valleys, by streams; 200–1000 m. Guangdong, SE and SW Guangxi, SE Yunnan [Laos, Vietnam].

This is a fine parasitifer plant, which can be used for breeding lac insects. The bark is used medicinally for relieving rheumatism and menorrhagia. The flowers are large and showy, and the trees are often cultivated ornamentally.

