
柴龙树属  chai long shu shu

Trees or shrubs. Leaves alternate, petiolate, usually black when dry, veins pinnate, margin entire. Flowers bisexual, small, in terminal or axillary panicles or cymose panicles. Calyx cupular, small, 5-toothed. Petals 5, free or slightly united at base, valvate, usually glabrous. Stamens 5, alternate petals and inserted at petal base; filaments dilated above; anthers sagittate, 2-lobed, dorsifixed. Ovary obliquely gibbous; style eccentric, slightly curved; stigma small, oblique. Drupe ovoid or ellipsoidal, oblique; exocarp fragile, crustaceous.

One variable species (see H. Sleumer, Blumea 17: 189. 1969): tropical and subtropical Africa and tropical Asia, also extending into S China.


柴龙树  chai long shu

*Apodytes cambodiana* Pierre; *A. yunnanensis* Hu.

Shrubs or trees, (3–)7–10(–20) m tall. Bark gray-white, smooth; branchlets gray-brown, lenticellate; young branches densely yellow puberulent. Petiole 1–2.5 cm, densely puberulent when young, becoming sparsely so; leaf blade adaxially yellow-green, black or black-brown when dry, elliptic or narrowly elliptic, 6–15 × 3–7.5 cm, glabrous or abaxially on midvein slightly hairy, lateral veins 5–8 pairs, conspicuous abaxially, reticulate veins slender, base cuneate, apex acute or shortly acuminate. Panicles terminal, densely yellow puberulent. Flowers light yellow or white; pedicel shorter than 1 mm, densely yellow puberulent. Calyx yellow-green, ca. 0.5 mm, outside sparsely puberulent. Petals yellow-green, oblong, ca. 4 × 1 mm. Filaments purple-green, ca. 1.5 mm; anthers yellow-green, ca. 1.5 mm. Ovary ca. 1.5 mm, densely yellow pubescent; style ca. 2.5 mm, glabrous. Drupe green when young, red to black-red when mature, oblong, ca. 10 × 7 mm, base with a discoid fleshy appendage, with persistent style. Fl. and fr. all seasons.

Sparse woods, dense forests, scrub; 500–1900 m. W Guangxi, S Hainan, S Yunnan [India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand; tropical and subtropical Africa].

Also known as “white pear,” it is a good timber species.