

53. **BLACHIA** Baillon, Étude Euphorb. 385. 1858, nom. cons.

留萼木属 liu e mu shu

Li Bingtao (李秉滔 Li Ping-tao); Michael G. Gilbert

Shrubs, monoecious. Leaves simple, alternate, shortly petiolate; leaf blade entire, rarely divided; venation pinnate. Inflorescences terminal or axillary, male flowers in dense or lax racemelike thyrses, female flowers in umbel-like or racemelike inflorescences, sometimes 1 to several inserted at base of male inflorescences; bracts absent; pedicels delicate. Male flowers: sepals 4 or 5, imbricate; petals 4 or 5, shorter than sepals; disk glands scalelike; stamens 10–30, inserted on elevated receptacle; filaments free. Female flowers: pedicels stouter in upper part; sepals 5, accrescent or slightly so; petals absent; disk annular or divided; ovary 3- or 4-locular; ovules 1 per locule; styles 3, free, bifid. Capsule slightly depressed globose, with 3 longitudinal grooves. Seeds not strophiolate; endosperm fleshy; cotyledon broad and flat.

About ten species: tropical regions of Asia; four species in China.

- 1a. Leaf apex rounded, rarely retuse, lateral veins 3–5, divaricate near margins; capsule ca. 8 mm in diam. .... 3. *B. siamensis*  
1b. Leaf apex acute to long acuminate, lateral veins 4–12; capsule 12–15 mm in diam.  
2a. Leaf blade abaxially greenish when dry, margin entire or undulate, sometimes with 1 shallow lobe on one side, lateral veins sparsely pubescent ..... 4. *B. jatrophiifolia*  
2b. Leaf blade red-brown when dry, margin entire, lateral veins glabrous.  
3a. Male peduncle 2–8 cm; stamens ca. 15; ovary and capsule glabrous ..... 1. *B. pentzii*  
3b. Male peduncle 1–3.5 cm; stamens ca. 24; ovary and capsule pubescent ..... 2. *B. andamanica*

1. **Blachia pentzii** (Müller Argoviensis) Benth, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 17: 266. 1878.

留萼木 liu e mu

*Codiaeum pentzii* Müller Argoviensis in A. Candolle, Prodr. 15(2): 1118. 1866.

Shrubs 1–4 m tall; branches usually gray-white, with dense elevated lenticels, glabrous. Buds perulate. Petiole 0.5–2(–3) cm; leaf blade very variable in shape, ovate-lanceolate, obovate, or oblong to long lanceolate, 4–18 × 1–6 cm, papery or submembranous, both surfaces glabrous, base attenuate, broadly cuneate, or obtuse, margin entire, apex acute to long acuminate; lateral veins 6–12. Plants monoecious. Male inflorescence racemose, peduncle 2–8 cm, rachis much shorter; female inflorescence umbel-like, sometimes from base of male peduncle, peduncle 1–2 cm. Male flowers often in pairs; pedicel 8–20 mm; sepals rotund, ca. 2 mm; petals broadly obovate, apex truncate or retuse, 1–2 mm, yellow; disk glands broad and flat; stamens ca. 15. Female flowers: pedicels 5–10 mm; sepals ovate to ovate-lanceolate, 2–3 mm, accrescent, clavate; disk glands 4 or 5; ovary globose, glabrous; styles 3, bipartite, lobes linear. Capsule subglobose, slightly depressed, ca. 1.5 cm in diam., glabrous. Seeds ovoid to broadly ellipsoidal, ca. 5.5 × 4.5 mm, black with dense paler blotches. Fl. and fr. almost throughout year.

Thickets, open riverside woodlands or valleys; 200–400 m. S Guangdong, Hainan [Vietnam].

2. **Blachia andamanica** (Kurz) J. D. Hooker, Fl. Brit. India 5: 403. 1887.

大果留萼木 da guo liu e mu

*Codiaeum andamanicum* Kurz, J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, Pt.

2, Nat. Hist. 42: 246. 1873; *Blachia longzhouensis* X. X. Chen; *B. philippinensis* Merrill.

Shrubs to 2 m tall; branches gray, with prominent lenticels. Petiole 5–10 mm, white pubescent to glabrous; leaf blade oblong to elliptic-lanceolate, 2–17 × 1–5.5 cm, papery, both surfaces glabrous, base rounded to broadly cuneate, margin entire, apex acute to acuminate; lateral veins 4–7. Male inflorescence racemose, 5–10-flowered, peduncle 1–3.5 cm, white-sericeous pubescent; female inflorescence umbelliform, 2–4-flowered, inserted at base of male inflorescences or apex of branchlets. Male flowers: pedicels 2–5 mm; sepals 5, green, ovate or subovate, ca. 3 mm, glabrous; petals 5, broadly obovate, ca. 1.2 × 1.6 mm, membranous; disk 5-lobed; stamens 12–24, glabrous. Female flowers: pedicels clavate, 4–5(–8) mm, pubescent; sepals 5, lanceolate or long ovate, 2.5–3 mm, pubescent outside, glabrous inside; disk annular, 5- or 6-lobed; ovary with densely white-sericeous pubescence; styles 3, connate at base, bipartite in upper part, lobes linear. Capsule depressed globose, with 3 longitudinal grooves, ca. 1.2 cm in diam., pubescent. Seeds ellipsoidal, ca. 7 mm; episperm crustaceous, with stripes of spots. Fl. Sep–Oct, fr. Oct–Dec.

Thickets on limestone; 500–600 m. SW Guangdong (Yangjiang), SW Guangxi (Longzhou), W Hainan (Changjiang) [Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines].

3. **Blachia siamensis** Gagnepain, Bull. Soc. Bot. France 71: 620. 1924.

海南留萼木 hai nan liu e mu

*Blachia chunii* P. T. Li; *B. jatrophiifolia* Pax & K. Hoffmann var. *siamensis* Craib.

Shrubs 1–2 m tall; young branches pubescent, glabrescent, sometimes with corky angles. Petiole 2–6 mm; leaf blade obo-

vate-elliptic, 2–5.5 × 1.5–3.5 cm, papery, gray-brown when dry, both surfaces glabrous, base broadly cuneate, rarely rounded, margin entire, prominently revolute, apex rounded, rarely retuse; lateral veins 3–5, divaricate near margin. Male inflorescence terminal, ca. 5 cm, 4–6-flowered; female inflorescence terminal or subterminal, 1–5-flowered. Male flowers white; pedicels slender, 10–15 mm; sepals 5, subovate, sparsely pubescent at apex; petals 5, obtriangular, ca. 0.7 mm; disk glands 5; stamens

ca. 20; filaments free; anthers rounded. Female flowers: pedicels ca. 5 mm, sparsely pubescent; sepals 5, ovate-triangular, ca. 1.5 mm, pilose inside; disk glands 5; ovary sparsely villous to glabrous; styles 3, connate at base, bifid at apex, lobes linear. Capsule subglobose, ca. 8 mm in diam., glabrous. Seeds elliptic, ca. 5 × 2.5 mm, dark brown, with stripes of gray-brown spots. Fl. Jun–Jul, fr. Aug–Sep.

Open coastal woodlands; 100–200 m. Guangdong (cultivated), S Hainan (Sanya) [Thailand].

**4. *Blachia jatrophifolia*** Pax & K. Hoffmann in Engler, Pflanzenr. 47(IV. 147. III): 39. 1911.

崖州留萼木 ya zhou liu e mu

*Blachia yaihsienensis* F. W. Xing & Z. X. Li.

Shrubs, up to 4 m tall; young branches sparsely pubescent, glabrescent. Petiole 5–12 mm, sparsely pubescent; leaf blade ovate-oblong or elliptic, 5–10 × 3.5–10 cm, papery to nearly membranous, abaxially greenish when dry, base cuneate or broadly so, margin entire or undulate, sometimes with 1 shallow lobe on one side, apex acuminate; lateral veins 5–7, sparsely pubescent. Male inflorescence a flat-topped cyme, usually 5–7-flowered; female inflorescence with flowers sometimes sparsely inserted at axis. Male flowers: pedicel slender, 5–8 mm; sepals 5, ovate, ca. 2 mm, sparsely ciliate to glabrous. Female flowers: pedicel 9–10 mm, clavate, pubescent to glabrous; sepals 5(or 6), lanceolate, 2–3 mm, acute, sparsely ciliate; disk annular; ovary densely white pubescent; styles 3, 2.5–3 mm, connate at base, bifid at apex. Capsule subglobose, ca. 10 mm in diam., shallowly 3-ribbed, sparsely pubescent. Seeds ovate, with stripes of brown spots. Fl. Apr–Oct, fr. Jun–Dec.

Slopes with shrubs. Hainan (Baoting, Sanya) [Laos, Vietnam].

Fl. China 11: 269–270. 2008.