

Shrubs or trees, dioecious, rarely monoecious. Branchlets puberulent. Leaves alternate; stipules small or minute, deciduous; leaf blade mostly ± dentate; venation pinnate. Inflorescences axillary, unbranched; bracts small. Male flowers 1 to many per bract; sepals (2 or) 3 or 4, valvate, closed in bud; petals absent; stamens (10–)20–30–200; filaments free; anthers basifixate, 2-locular, theca almost free, erect; juxtapetaminal glands many, short, erect, apex pilose; pistilode absent. Female flowers mostly 1 per bract; sepals 2–4; petals absent; disk annular or dissected; ovary 2- or (3 or 4)-locular; ovule 1 per locule; styles short, stigmatic surface papillose or plumose, recurved. Fruit a capsule, 2- or (3 or 4)-lobed. Seeds globose; testa fleshy, inner layer hard, foveolate-reticulate.

About 75 species; Old World tropics; six species in China.

1a. Ovary and capsule glabrous; disk with 3 separate glands.
   1b. Ovary and capsule pubescent to tomentose; disk sinuous to 3-lobed.

2a. Leaves membranous; male inflorescences 11–13 cm; stamens 40–50; female inflorescences 4–5 cm
   2b. Leaves thickly papery; male inflorescences 6–7 cm; stamens 30; female inflorescences 1.5–3 cm

3a. Leaves membranous, adaxially almost glabrous; stamens more than 25; cocci pilose or tomentulose, sutures not raised.
   3b. Leaves papery, adaxially pilose, often purplish; stamens 15–25; cocci tomentulose, sutures raised

4a. Stamens ca. 27; infructescence 2–3 cm
   4b. Stamens 35–50; infructescence 4–10 cm.

5a. Male flowers 7–9 per bract; capsule tomentulose
   5b. Male flowers 3–5 per bract; capsule pilose or glabrous

6a. Stamens ca. 27; infructescence 2–3 cm
   6b. Stamens 35–50; infructescence 4–10 cm.


Claoxylon hainanense

Mercurialis indica Loureiro (1790), not Claoxylon indicum (Reinwardt ex Blume) Hasskarl (1844).

Shrubs, 1–5 m tall, dioecious. Branchlets pilose. Stipules subulate, 4–5 mm; petiole 1.5–5 cm, apex with 2 glands; leaf blade oblong-lanceolate or lanceolate, 9–16 × 1.5–5 cm, membranous, base cuneate, glandular-crenulate, apex acuminate, glabrous. Male inflorescences 11–13 cm; bracts ovate-triangular, 1–1.5 mm. Male flowers 2 or 3 per bract; pedicel 3–4 mm; sepals 3, ca. 2 mm; stamens 40–50; juxtapetaminal glands ca. 0.5 mm. Female inflorescences 4–5 cm; bracts triangular, ca. 1 mm. Female flowers 1 per bract; pedicel ca. 3 mm; sepals 3, subtriangular, ca. 1 mm; disk glands 3, ovate; ovary subglobose, glabrous; styles 3, ca. 1.5 mm, basally connate, plumose. Capsule 3-lobed, ca. 9 mm in diam. Seeds subglobose, ca. 4.5 mm in diam. Fl. and fr. Feb–Nov.

Plains, mountain slopes, thickets, monsoon forests; below 100–700 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan [N Vietnam].


Claoxylon brachyandrum

Shrubs or trees, 3–12 m tall, dioecious. Branchlets gray tomentulose. Petiole 5–15 cm, with 2 glands; leaf blade ovate to broadly ovate, 10–22 × 6–13 cm, papery, both surfaces pilose, base cuneate to obtuse or slightly oblique, margin crenulate or dentate, apex acute or obtuse. Male inflorescences 10–30 cm, tomentulose; bracts triangular, ca. 2 mm. Male flowers 3–7 per bract; pedicel ca. 4 mm; sepals 3 or 4, ca. 3 mm, pilose; stamens 15–25; juxtapetaminal glands ca. 0.5 mm. Female inflorescences 5–20 cm. Female flowers often 1 per bract; sepals 3, subtriangular, tomentulate; disk 3-lobed or sinuous; ovary glabrous; styles 3, ca. 2 mm, plumose. Capsule 3-lobed, 7–8 mm in diam., tomentulose, sutures raised. Seeds subglobose; testa red. Fl. and fr. Apr–Dec.

Hills, seashores, thickets; below 100 m. Taiwan [Malaysia (Sabah), Philippines].


Claoxylon indicum

Erytrochilus indicus Reinwardt ex Blume, Bijdr. 615. 1826; Claoxylon parviflorum Hooker & Arnott (1837), not A. Jussieu (1824).

Shrubs or small trees, 3–12 m tall, dioecious. Branchlets gray tomentulose. Petiole 5–15 cm, with 2 glands; leaf blade ovate to broadly ovate, 10–22 × 6–13 cm, papery, both surfaces pilose, base cuneate to obtuse or slightly oblique, margin crenulate or dentate, apex acute or obtuse. Male inflorescences 10–30 cm, tomentulose; bracts triangular, ca. 2 mm. Male flowers 3–7 per bract; pedicel ca. 4 mm; sepals 3 or 4, ca. 3 mm, pilose; stamens 15–25; juxtapetaminal glands ca. 0.5 mm. Female inflorescences 5–20 cm. Female flowers often 1 per bract; sepals 3, subtriangular, tomentulate; disk 3-lobed or sinuous; ovary glabrous; styles 3, ca. 2 mm, plumose. Capsule 3-lobed, 7–8 mm in diam., tomentulose, sutures raised. Seeds subglobose; testa red. Fl. and fr. Mar–Dec.

Plains, mountain valleys, forests, scrub; below 100–500(–1500) m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, S Yunnan [India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Guinea, Thailand, Vietnam].
Merrill incorrectly interpreted *Croton polot* N. L. Burman as this species and introduced the name *Claoxylon polot* (N. L. Burman) Merrill.


长叶白桐树 chang ye bai tong shu

_Erytrochilus longifolius_ Blume, Bijdr. 616. 1826.

Shrubs or small trees, 2–7 m tall, dioecious. Branchlets gray puberulent. Stipules small; petiole 5–12 cm; leaf blade ovate-oblong or broadly lanceolate, 17–40 × 6–15 cm, membranous, glabrous or abaxially pilose, base cuneate, margin serrulate, apex abruptly acuminate. Male inflorescences 15–22 cm, puberulent; bracts triangular, ca. 1 mm. Male flowers 7–9 per bract; pedicel ca. 3 mm; sepals 3, ca. 3 mm; stamens 35–50; interstaminal glands ca. 1 mm. Female inflorescences 3.5–6 cm, puberulent; bracts triangular, ca. 1 mm. Female flowers 1 per bract; pedicel ca. 1 mm; sepals 3, ovate-triangular, ca. 1 mm, tomentulose; disk cup-shaped, sinuous or lobed; ovary tomentulose; styles 3, ca. 1 mm, papillose. Capsule 3-lobed, ca. 1.5 cm, tomentulose, sutures not conspicuously raised. Seeds globose, 6–7 mm in diam. Fl. and fr. Feb–Nov.

Valleys, river valleys, evergreen forests; 200–1000 m. S Yunnan [Cambodia, NE India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, New Guinea, Thailand, Vietnam].


膜叶白桐树 mo ye bai tong shu

Shrubs or small trees, 3–5 m tall, dioecious. Branchlets pubescent. Stipules small; petiole 3.5–7 cm; leaf blade ovate to elliptic, 18–30 × 6–14 cm, membranous, glabrous, base obtuse or broadly cuneate, margin sinuous or subentire, apex acuminate. Male inflorescences 10–20 cm, pubescent; bracts lanceolate, ca. 1 mm. Male flowers 3–5 per bract; pedicel ca. 1 mm; sepals 3, ca. 2 mm, pilose; stamens 35–50; interstaminal glands ca. 0.3 mm. Female inflorescences 5–10 cm, pubescent; bracts triangular, ca. 1.5 mm. Female flowers 1 per bract; sepals 3, triangular, ca. 1.2 mm, tomentulose; disk cup-shaped, sinuous; ovary tomentulose; styles 3, ca. 1 mm, plumose. Fruiting pedicel ca. 3 mm; capsule 3-lobed, ca. 1.2 cm, pilose or glabrous. Seeds globose, 6–7 mm in diam. Fl. and fr. Mar–Nov.

Valleys, river valleys, evergreen forests; 200–2000 m. S Guangxi, Yunnan [NE India, Myanmar, N Vietnam].


短序白桐树 duan xu bai tong shu

Shrubs, 3–5 m tall, dioecious. Branchlets gray pilose, or glabrous. Stipules lanceolate, 4–5 mm; petiole 4–7 cm, often with 2 glands; leaf blade oblong to broadly lanceolate, 10–17 × 2–5 cm, membranous or thickly papery, adaxially pilose or subglabrous, base cuneate, margin serrulate or sinuous, apex acuminate. Male inflorescences (3–)10–12 cm, pilose; bracts subtriangular, ca. 1 mm. Male flowers 3–5 per bract; pedicel 2–2.5 mm; sepals 3, ca. 3 mm; stamens ca. 27; interstaminal glands ca. 0.5 mm. Female inflorescences 2–3 cm, pilose; peduncle ca. 1 cm. Female flowers few to 9; sepals 3, subtriangular, ca. 1 mm, pubescent; disk 3-lobed; ovary pubescent; styles 3, ca. 1 mm, papillose. Fruiting pedicels ca. 1 mm; capsule 3-lobed, ca. 8 mm, pilose, sutures not raised. Fl. May, fr. Jun–Jul.

Mountain forests; 1500–1800 m. S Yunnan [N Vietnam].