

66. **MICROSTACHYS** A. Jussieu, Euphorb. Gen. 48. Feb 1824.

地杨桃属 di yang tao shu

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*Elachocroton* F. Mueller.

Herbs to subshrubs, monoecious; indumentum of multicellular, hyaline hairs, simple [or dendritic]. Leaves alternate, petiolate; stipules often present, small; leaf blade margin serrulate, rarely entire, pinnately veined. Flowers in terminal, axillary, leaf-opposed, or extra-axillary narrow racemes, female flowers often distant from male part; bracts each with 2 basal glands. Male flowers small, 1–3 per bract-axil, subsessile; sepals 3, free or very indistinctly connate at base; petals and disk absent; stamens 3; filaments free; anthers longitudinally dehiscent; pistillode absent. Female flowers: pedicel short to absent; sepals 3, free, usually larger than in male; petals and disk absent; ovary 3-locular; ovules 1 per cell; styles 3, spreading or revolute, free or connate at base. Capsules subglobose, echinate [or smooth], of 3 2-valved cocci. Seeds globose or oblong, carunculate; endosperm fleshy; cotyledon broad and flat.

About 17 species: mainly neotropical, but with outliers in Africa, Asia, and Australasia; one species in China.

1. **Microstachys chamaelea** (Linnaeus) Müller Argoviensis, *Linnaea* 32: 95. 1863.

地杨桃 di yang tao

*Tragia chamaelea* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 981. 1753; *Elachocroton asperococcus* F. Mueller; *Sebastiania chamaelea* (Linnaeus) Müller Argoviensis; *S. chamaelea* var. *asperococca* (F. Mueller) Pax & K. Hoffmann.

Perennial herbs to many-stemmed subshrubs, 20–60 cm tall; main root long, to 5 mm thick; lateral roots slender; stem ± woody at base, branching dichotomous, slightly angular, glabrous or pubescent when young. Stipules persistent, ovate, ca. 1 mm, ciliate, apex acuminate; petiole ca. 2 mm, usually pubescent; leaf blade linear or linear-lanceolate, 20–55 × 2–10 mm, thickly papery, abaxially pubescent, base slightly attenuate, usually with paired concave glands, margins densely serrulate, apex obtuse; midrib prominent on both surfaces, lateral veins 15–30 pairs, obscure. Inflorescence 5–12 mm, lower part with 1 or 2 female flowers, upper part with many spirally arranged male flowers. Male flowers: bracts ovate, ca. 0.5 mm, apex acuminate, mostly covered by a pair of large spatulate glands; each bract 1- or 2-flowered; sepals ovate, ca. 0.5 mm, margins ciliate-serrulate; stamens with filaments much shorter than anthers. Female flowers: bracts lanceolate, ca. 1 mm; sepals slightly larger than in male, broadly ovate, margins fimbriate, sometimes with 2 glands at base inside; ovary triangular-globose, glabrous, with 6 rows of spines; stigmas free. Capsules triangular-globose, 3.5–4.5 mm, lobes softly spiny, spines reddish. Seeds subterete, smooth, 2.5–2.75 mm. Fl. and fr. Mar–Nov.  $n = 14$ .

Beaches, dry fields, roadsides, along rivers, disturbed areas; near sea level to 300 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan [Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; Africa, N Australia, Pacific islands (Solomon Islands)].

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