

75. PEDILANTHUS Necker ex Poiteau, *Ann. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat.* 19: 388. 1812, nom. cons.

红雀珊瑚属 hong que shan hu shu

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

Tithymaloides Ortega; *Tithymalus* Miller (1754), not Gaertner (1790).

Erect shrubs or subshrubs, monoecious, most parts fleshy; indumentum of simple hairs; latex present, white. Leaves alternate, distichous; stipules small, glandular or not; leaf blade entire; venation pinnate. Inflorescence a strongly zygomorphic cyathium in dichasial cymes or cincinni, bracteate, stalked; cyathophylls inconspicuous; involucre obliquely shoe- or boat-shaped, base oblique, stalked, apex 2-lipped, 2-fid, inner segments shorter and narrower than outer ones, with 2–6 glands at base of involucre, or sometimes eglandular. Flowers unisexual. Male flowers many, each reduced to 1 stamen; filament short, similar to pedicels; anthers globose, thecae introrse, longitudinally dehiscent. Female flower solitary at center of involucre, oblique, with long pedicels; ovary 3-celled; ovules 1 per locule; styles slightly connate; stigmas 3, 2-fid. Fruit a capsule, 3-coccal, central column persistent. Seeds without funicle; caruncle absent.

About 15 species: Central America, cultivated throughout the tropics; one species (introduced) in China.

1. *Pedilanthus tithymaloides* (Linnaeus) Poiteau, *Ann. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat.* 19: 390. 1812.

红雀珊瑚 hong que shan hu

Euphorbia tithymaloides Linnaeus, *Sp. Pl.* 1: 453. 1753.

Erect subshrubs 40–70 cm tall; stems stout, slightly fleshy, strongly flexuous, glabrous or pubescent when young. Leaves distichous; stipules small, with a rounded ca. 1 mm in diam. gland; leaf blade ovate or long ovate, 3.5–8 × 2.5–5 cm, fleshy, both surfaces pubescent, glabrescent, base rounded or obtuse, apex ± acuminate; midrib elevated abaxially, lateral veins 7–9 pairs, ascending steeply and running close to margin for some distance before terminating. Cyathia in cymes clustered on leafless stems, terminal or axillary at upper part, each one with many

male flowers and 1 female flower; involucre shoe-shaped, deep-red or purple-red, equilateral, ca. 1 cm, glabrous, apex nearly labiate-shaped, 2-fid, lobes small, oblong, 3-serrulate at apex, other lobe boat-shaped, ca. 1 cm, 2-partite at apex. Male flower: pedicels slender, 2.5–4 mm, glabrous, similar to filaments; anthers globose, slightly shorter than filaments. Female flower inserted at center of involucre, oblique, exerted from involucre; pedicels 6–8 mm, glabrous; ovary fusiform; styles usually connate; stigma 3, 2-fid. Fl. Dec–Jun.

Cultivated. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Yunnan [native to Central America, cultivated throughout the tropics].

This species is cultivated as an ornamental, often as a potted plant. All parts are used as medicine for traumatic injury and fractures.

Fl. China 11: 313–314. 2008.