
盾柱属  
Ma Jinshuang (马金双); A. Michele Funston

Evergreen trees or shrubs, glabrous. Leaves opposite, decussate, entire, stipulate. Inflorescence axillary, cymose. Flowers bisexual, 5-merous. Disk fleshy, cupular, 5-lobed, intrastaminal; anthers longitudinally dehiscent, introrse. Ovary 2-locular or reduced to 1-locular; ovules erect, 2–8 per locule. Nut ellipsoid or obovoid, bony, with a prominent persistent lateral style. Seed 1, ovoid.

About five species: Old World tropics and subtropics; one species in China.


盾柱  
*Celastrus oppositus* Wallich in Roxburgh, Fl. Ind. 2: 393. 1824.

Trees, to 15 m tall, sometimes shrubs; branchlets subterete or obscurely 4-angled. Petiole short, 2–5 mm; leaf blade ovate to obovate-oblong, rarely suborbicular, 3–8 × 1.5–5.2 cm, papery, base cuneate, margin entire, sometimes slightly recurved, apex obtuse, acute, rarely acuminate, very rarely retuse; veins 5 or 6 pairs, thin and obvious. Cymes of 1 or 2 branches, peduncle very short, 2–3 mm; pedicel 1–2 mm. Flowers green; calyx lobes rounded or subreniform, ca. 0.5 × 0.75–1 mm; petals elliptic or broadly ovate, 1.25–1.5 × ca. 1 mm, reflexed at anthesis, obtuse or slightly acute. Disk margin slightly crenate. Stamens attached just abaxially on disk margin; filament subulate, fleshy, slightly flattened; anther slightly ovoid. Ovary adnate to disk at base; style very short; stigma capitate. Nut ellipsoid or sometimes slightly obovoid, 5–7 × 4–5 mm. Seed sustained by persistent floral parts. Fl. May–Dec, fr. Jul–Jan.

Lower primary and secondary light rain forests; near sea level to 700 m. Hainan [S India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; Australia (Queensland), Pacific islands (New Caledonia)].