

**6. RICHERIELLA** Pax & K. Hoffmann in Engler, *Pflanzenr.* 81(IV. 147. XV): 30. 1921.

龙胆木属 long dan mu shu

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Shrubs to trees, dioecious; indumentum usually absent. Leaves alternate, spirally arranged; stipules broad, caducous; petiole short; leaf blade simple, thinly leathery, margin entire, venation pinnate. Inflorescences axillary, on leafless axillary shoots, shoots slender, spikelike, often branched. Male flowers in fascicles: sepals 5, imbricate; petals absent; disk segments 5, small, alternating with sepals; stamens 5; filaments free; anthers extrorse, longitudinally dehiscent; pistillode 2- or 3-lobed. Female flowers in short racemes; pedicels very short; sepals 5, imbricate; petals absent; disk annular; ovary 3-locular; ovules 2 per locule; styles 3, free, apex shallowly bifid. Fruit a capsule, 3-lobed, dehiscent into 3 2-valved cocci; exocarp papery, distinct from endocarp. Seeds without caruncle; hilum hollow; endosperm thin; cotyledons flattened and broad.

About two species: China, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand; one species in China.

Molecular analysis shows *Richeriella*, though superficially very different in inflorescence structure, to be nested within *Flueggea*.

**1. Richeriella gracilis** (Merrill) Pax & K. Hoffmann in Engler, *Pflanzenr.* 81(IV. 147. XV): 30. 1921.

龙胆木 long dan mu

*Baccaurea gracilis* Merrill, *Philipp. J. Sci.* 1(Suppl.): 203. 1906; *Flueggea gracilis* (Merrill) Petra Hoffmann.

Shrubs to trees, up to 8[–17] m tall, evergreen, glabrous; bark gray. Petiole 4–8 mm; leaf blade papery, oblong-elliptic, obovate, or oblanceolate, 9–16 × 2.5–6 cm, base cuneate, apex shortly acuminate; lateral veins 10–12 pairs, elevated abaxially.

Male flowers: inflorescence 2–9 cm; rachis slightly angular; bracts small, ovate-triangular, acute; pedicels very short to absent; sepals ovate, ca. 1 mm, apex obtuse; stamens longer than sepals; filaments ca. 2 mm; rudimentary ovary 2-lobed. Female flowers: inflorescence 1–1.5 cm, racemelike; sepals as in male; disk annular; ovary ovoid, 3-locular; styles 3, free, apex shallowly bifid. Capsules broadly ovoid, ca. 5 × 6–8 mm; exocarp yellowish, brown when dried, with reticular lines. Seeds ca. 3.5 mm. Fl. and fr. almost throughout year.

Moist broad-leaved woodlands; 200–600 m. Hainan [Philippines, Thailand].

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