

1. TETRACERA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 533. 1753.

锡叶藤属 xi ye teng shu

Delima Linnaeus.

Evergreen shrubs or climbers. Leaves simple, alternate, petiolate; leaf blade scabrous or smooth, veins pinnate, secondary veins parallel, prominent, margin entire or smooth. Panicles terminal or axillary; bracts and bractlets linear. Flowers bisexual, small, 0.5–3 cm wide, actinomorphic. Sepals (3 or)4 or 5(–15), persistent in fruit, not accrescent, thinly leathery. Petals 3–5, white. Stamens numerous; anthers 2-loculed, with laterally expanded connective, dehiscing longitudinally. Carpels free, 1–5, on flat receptacle; ovules 2 to numerous per carpel. Follicles ovate, irregularly dehiscent. Seeds 1 to numerous, arillate; aril red or purple, fleshy, enclosing at least base of seeds.

About 50 species: tropical and warm-temperate regions, most species in tropical America; two species in China.

Tetracera xui H. Zhu & H. Wang (Guihaia 19: 337. 1999), described from Yunnan, could not be treated here because no material was seen by the authors.

- 1a. Carpels densely pubescent; sepals abaxially pubescent; leaf blade abaxially brown hispid 1. *T. scandens*
1b. Carpels and sepals glabrous; when mature, abaxial surface of leaf blade glabrous or only veins pubescent 2. *T. sarmentosa*

1. *Tetracera scandens* (Linnaeus) Merrill, Interpr. Herb. Amboin. 365. 1917.

毛果锡叶藤 mao guo xi ye teng

Tragia scandens Linnaeus, Herb. Amboin. 18. 1754; *Delima sarmentosa* Linnaeus.

Evergreen woody climbers to 30 m. Young branchlets densely pubescent, glabrescent. Petiole 1–1.5 cm, pubescent; leaf blade ovate or obovate, 4–10 × 2.5–5 cm, leathery, scabrous, abaxially brown hispid, scaberulose, adaxially sparsely setose, with strumose protuberance, secondary veins 9–12, approximately parallel, obviously prominent on abaxial surface, slightly depressed on adaxial surface, veinlets unclear, base rounded, often oblique, apex rounded or obtuse, sometimes slightly acute. Panicles terminal, 10–20 cm, many flowered; peduncle and pedicels pubescent; bracts lanceolate, 4–6 mm, hairy; bractlets linear-lanceolate, 2–3 mm, hairy. Flowers 6–8 mm in diam. Sepals 4 or 5, ovate, 3–4 mm, abaxially pubescent, persistent in fruit, slightly curved, apex rounded. Petals 3, white, slightly longer than sepals, deciduous. Stamens numerous, as long as sepals. Carpels 1(or 2), densely gray pubescent; ovules several. Follicles ovate, ca. 1 cm, apex with persistent bent beaklike style, ± pubescent. Seeds 1 or 2, 3–4 mm; aril fringed, enclosing base of seeds.

Yunnan [India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam].

2. *Tetracera sarmentosa* (Linnaeus) Vahl, Symb. Bot. 3: 70. 1794.

锡叶藤 xi ye teng

Delima sarmentosa Linnaeus, Gen. Pl., ed. 5, App. 1754 [“*sarmentosa*”]; *Seguiera asiatica* Loureiro; *Tetracera asiatica* (Loureiro) Hoogland; *T. levinei* Merrill.

Evergreen woody climbers to 20 m, ramose. Branchlets scabrous, hairy when young, later glabrous. Petiole 1–1.5 cm, pubescent; leaf blade orbicular, 4–12 × 2–5 cm, leathery, very scabrous, setose when young, later abaxial surface glabrous or only veins pubescent, with protuberance, secondary veins 10–

15, obviously prominent on abaxial surface, base broadly cuneate or approximately rounded, usually oblique, margin entire or finely serrate distally, apex obtuse or rounded, sometimes

slightly acute. Panicles terminal, 6–25 cm, many flowered; peduncle pubescent, zigzag. Flowers 6–8 mm in diam. Sepals 5, free, broadly ovate, 4–5 mm, unequal, persistent in fruit, apex obtuse, glabrous or occasionally sparsely hairy, ciliate. Petals 3, white, ovate, as long as sepals. Stamens numerous, shorter than sepals. Carpels 1(or 2), glabrous; style longer than stamens. Follicles ca. 1 cm, orange, pericarp thinly leathery and slightly bright when dry, with persistent style. Seed 1, black; aril yellow, fringed, enclosing base of seeds. Fl. Apr–May.

Sparse forests, thickets, barren hills. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Yunnan [India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand].

