

## 6. BENNETTIODENDRON Merrill, J. Arnold Arbor. 8: 10. 1927.

山桂花属 shan gui hua shu

*Bennettia* Miquel, Fl. Ned. Ind. 1(2): 105. 1858, not Gray (1821), nor R. Brown (1852), nor *Bennetia* Rafinesque (1830).

Shrubs or small trees, reportedly dioecious, young shoots with a perular bud, perular bracts persistent. Leaves alternate, uppermost often clustered at apices of branches; estipulate; petiole mostly elongate, shorter in upper leaves, with a pair of glands at apex only or glands completely absent; leaf blade pinnate-veined, sometimes 3–5-veined from base with lateral veins much weaker than midvein, margin  $\pm$  coarsely glandular-serrate. Flowers hypogynous, small, unisexual, rarely at least structurally bisexual, in axillary or terminal, paniculate, rarely corymblike or racemelike inflorescences; bracts and bracteoles small, caducous; pedicels articulate. Sepals 3(–5), imbricate, free or joined at base only, small, ciliate, caducous, rarely persistent. Petals absent. Disk glands present, small, dispersed among stamen or staminode bases. Staminate flowers: stamens many; filaments free, filiform, pubescent with long hairs in lower half, rarely glabrous; anthers elliptic, small, dorsifixed, versatile; disk glands many, set between the stamen filament bases, small, short, fleshy, glabrous; abortive ovary small, with 3 short styles. Pistillate flowers: staminodes many, like the stamens but smaller and sterile, filaments less than 1/2 as long as those of staminate flowers, pubescent at base; disk glands many, small, truncate, set between staminode bases; ovary superior, incompletely 3-loculed; placentas 3, each with 2 or 3 ovules; styles 2–4, not or scarcely joined at base, divergent, slender, each dilated at apex into a flattened irregularly branched or lobed stigma, caducous. Berry globose, small, rather dry; style caducous or basal part persistent; pericarp thin, brittle when dried. Seeds 1(–4), yellowish when fresh, blackish when dry, shiny; testa slightly reticulate.

Two or three species: Asia; one species in China.

Fan (J. S. W. Forest. Coll. 15(3): 27. 1995) recorded *Bennettiodendron cordatum* Merrill from S Guangxi. The only specimen cited by him, *X. R. Liang 69814*, has leaves not obviously cordate at base, and can be safely referred to *B. leprosipes*. In *B. cordatum*, a species occurring in Vietnam, the leaves are obviously cordate at base.

### 1. *Bennettiodendron leprosipes* (Clos) Merrill, J. Arnold Arbor. 8: 11. 1927.

山桂花 shan gui hua

*Xylosma leprosipes* Clos, Ann. Sci. Nat., Bot., sér. 4, 8: 230. 1857; *Bennettia leprosipes* (Clos) Koorders; *B. longipes* Oliver; *Bennettiodendron brevipes* Merrill; *B. brevipes* var. *margopatens* S. S. Lai [“*margopatense*”]; *B. brevipes* var. *shangsiense* (X. X. Chen & J. Y. Luo) S. S. Lai; *B. lanceolatum* H. L. Li; *B. leprosipes* var. *ellipticum* S. S. Lai; *B. leprosipes* var. *pilosum* G. S. Fan & Y. C. Hsu; *B. leprosipes* var. *rugosifolium* S. S. Lai; *B. longipes* (Oliver) Merrill; *B. macrophyllum* C. Y. Wu ex S. S. Lai; *B. macrophyllum* var. *pilosum* (G. S. Fan & Y. C. Hsu) S. S. Lai; *B. shangsiense* X. X. Chen & J. Y. Luo; *B. simaoense* G. S. Fan; *B. subracemosum* C. Y. Wu; *Myroxylon leprosipes* (Clos) Kuntze.

Shrubs or small trees, evergreen, 2–6(–15) m tall; bark gray-brown, fetid, not flaking; branchlets terete, densely gray-brown puberulous, later glabrescent or subglabrous. Petiole 0.3–6 cm, rarely to 10 cm, brown puberulous, gradually glabrescent, with or without 2 glands at apex; leaf blade mostly narrowly to broadly elliptic, elliptic-oblong, or obovate, usually (5–)10–23  $\times$  4–7.5 cm, papery or thinly papery, both surfaces glabrous, or puberulous along veins abaxially, hairs spreading and very short, midvein raised on both sides, lateral veins 7–9 pairs including 1 or 2 pairs from base, base usually acute-cuneate, less often obtuse-cuneate, rarely rounded, margin sparsely obtusely serrate, apex obtuse, contracting quite abruptly to an acumen to 2 cm. Inflorescence terminal, paniculate, 6–12(–20)  $\times$  ca. 4.5 cm, many flowered (at least 20–30, usually more), initially densely brown puberulous, glabrescent, with age at least pistillate inflorescence rachises becoming pale brown or grayish and conspicuously densely

pustular-lenticellate; bracts and bracteoles narrowly triangular, ca. 1 mm, pubescent. Flowers unisexual or apparently structurally bisexual, sordid-white or greenish yellow, scented. Pedicels 3–5 mm, to 1 cm in fruit. Staminate flowers: sepals broadly elliptic-ovate, 3–3.5 mm, texture thin, both surfaces sparsely pubescent to nearly glabrous, margin ciliate; stamens slightly exserted, light yellow, drying brown, filaments 3–4 mm, pubescent, hairs spreading, white when dried, long; anthers oblong; disk glands purplish when fresh. Pistillate flowers: sepals as in staminate flowers but ca. 1/2 as long; staminodes many, similar to stamens but usually only 1/2 as long; disk glands small, truncate, among staminode bases; ovary yellowish green to orange in fresh state, ovoid, somewhat collapsed and coarsely wrinkled in dried material, ca. 4 mm, placentas 2–4-ovuled; styles 3 or 4, sordid-white when fresh, filiform, ca. 1 mm, gla-

brous; stigmas ca. 0.3 mm. Berry red when mature, drying black, globose, 6–9 mm in diam., pericarp thin, brittle when dry. Seeds 1 or 2, globose, (semiglobose when 2 present), 3–4 mm in diam. Fl. Mar–Apr, fr. May–Nov.

Evergreen broad-leaved forests; 400–1800 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hunan, Jiangxi, Yunnan [Bangladesh, India, Indonesia (Java, Sumatra), Myanmar, Thailand].

*Bennettiodendron leprosipes* is a highly polymorphic species in leaf shape, petiole length, inflorescence length, and fruit size.

“*Bennettiodendron macrophyllum* var. *obovatum*” (S. S. Lai, Bull. Bot. Res., Harbin 14: 227. 1994) belongs here but was not validly published under Art. 37.2 of the *Vienna Code* because two gatherings were indicated as types (*Longgang Expedition 10755* and *J. Y. Luo & Q. R. Lai 8014*).

