
八宝树属 ba bao shu shu

Qin Haining (覃海宁); Shirley Graham

Trees 8–45 m tall, buttressed. Branchets 4-angled, becoming terete with age; ultimate branches pendulous. Leaves shortly petiolate, opposite, oblong to ovate or lanceolate, leathery to papery, glabrous, secondary vein pairs numerous, joined in a series of intramarginal arches, base rounded to cordate, apex acute to acuminate. Inflorescence of few to many flowers in a lax, terminal corymb. Flowers actinomorphic, bisexual, usually 4- or 6-merous, but variably 4–8-merous on same or different individuals. Floral tube obconic or broadly campanulate, persistent in fruit; sepals 4–8, triangular-ovate, thick. Petals 4–8, broad, crinkled, shortly clawed. Stamens 12 or 24–50+; filaments filiform-subulate from a broadened base, long; anthers recurved or replicate over one end of connective. Ovary semi-inferior; ovules numerous; style long-exserted, slender; stigma capitate to slightly 4-lobed. Fruit indurate capsules, partially surrounded by persistent floral tube, oblong to ovoid-globose, loculicidally deeply dehiscent, 4–9-valved. Seeds numerous, filiform, fragile, 2-tailed. \(2n = 48\).

Two or three species: evergreen rain forests of SE Asia; two species (one cultivated) in China.


Trees, medium to tall, 30–40 m tall, glabrous. Leaves rigid, distichous; petiole to 1.2 cm; leaf blade abaxially pale green, ovate to oblanceolate, broad, 12–15 × 5–7 cm, abaxially glaucous, lateral veins 12–20–24 pairs, base cordate, apex shortly acuminate. Corymbs 3–20-flowered, drooping at ends of branches; pedicels 3–4 cm, stout. Floral tube broadly campanulate, 1.6–2.5 × 1.8–3 cm; sepals (5 or)6, green, thick, enlarged in fruit. Petals 6, white, obovate, 2.5–3 × 1.5–2 cm. Stamens numerous, ca. 50 or more, white, surpassing petals. Capsules subglobose, 3–4 × 3–4.5 cm, 6–9-valved. Seeds 4–6 mm. Fl. spring. \(2n = 48\).

Valley forests, open places, especially on river banks; 900–1500 m. S Yunnan [Cambodia, E India (including Andaman Islands), Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam].

This species is used for timber. The flowers have an unpleasant odor.


细花八宝树 xi hua ba bao shu

Trees, large, to 45 m tall, 70–100 cm d.b.h.; buttresses absent. Leaves distichous, subsessile; petiole to 2 cm; leaf blade obovate to ovate, broad, largest leaves 13–18 × 7–8 cm, smaller at bases and apices of branchlets, lateral veins 5–15–18–25 pairs, base cordate, apex abruptly acuminate. Corymbs 5–10 many flowered; pedicels 1–1.2 cm. Floral tube broadly campanulate, ca. 3 × 3 cm; sepals 4 or 5, rarely 6–8, 1.5–2 × 1.2–1.8 cm. Petals 4 or 5, yellowish white, obovate, 2–2.5 × 1.5–2 cm. Stamens 24–45, uniseriate. Capsules ovoid-oblong, 1.5–2.5 × 1.7–2.5 cm, 4-valved. Seeds ca. 5.5 mm.

Cultivated. Hainan [possibly native to Indonesia (Java)].

This species is used for timber. It was described from trees cultivated at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. The trees were grown from seed from an unknown source but are suspected to have come from Java. The designation as a hybrid is somewhat uncertain because the two other known species of *Duabanga* do not have overlapping ranges. It might well be a multistaminate form of *D. moluccana* Blume or maybe, if *D. grandiflora* and *D. moluccana* were cultivated together in Java, the seed was from a garden hybrid that occurred there.