
常春木屬 chang chun mu shu

Shrubs or trees, evergreen, probably hermaphroditic, unarmed. Leaves simple, margin entire to serrate or dentate; stipule united with petiole, obsolete. Inflorescence a panicle of umbels, terminal and axillary; pedicels not jointed below ovary. Calyx rim minutely 5-toothed. Petals 5, valvate. Stamens 5. Ovary 2-carpellate; styles 2, free or united at base. Fruit a drupe, ellipsoid. Seeds 2; endosperm uniform.

Three species: Bhutan, W China, NE India, Myanmar, Nepal; three species in China.

1a. Leaf blade oblong-elliptic or lanceolate-elliptic, not lobed, margin evenly serrulate, with a small, narrowly triangular tooth terminating each lateral vein; inflorescence usually glabrous ............................................. 1. M. membranifolius

1b. Leaf blade broadly elliptic or ovate, or suborbicular, entire or 2- or 3-lobed, lobes entire to irregularly dentate; inflorescence pubescent.

2a. Leaf blade broadly elliptic or ovate, base broadly cuneate or rounded, margin entire or sparsely dentate ............... 2. M. listeri

2b. Leaf blade broadly ovate or suborbicular, base cordate, rarely rounded, margin irregularly serrate, teeth often reaching 1.5–2.5 mm ....................................................................................................................................... 3. M. alpinus

1. Merrilliopanax membranifolius (W. W. Smith) C. B. Shang,


Trees, to 10 m tall. Branches slender, glabrous or sparsely brown stellate pubescent. Petiole 3–15 cm, slender; leaf blade oblong-elliptic or lanceolate-elliptic, 8–20(–30) × 3–8(–10) cm, membranous or leathery, glabrous, 4-veined from base, secondary veins 3–6 pairs, base acute to broadly cuneate or rounded, margin serrulate-dentate, apex caudate-acuminate. Inflorescence terminal and sometimes lateral, sparsely stellate pubescent when young, later glabrescent; primary axis 5–15 cm; pedicels 0.6–1.3 cm. Fruit ellipsoid-globose, 4–5 mm in diam. Fl. Jun–Jul, fr. Aug–Oct.

Mixed forests on mountain slopes; 1600–3300 m. NW and W Yunnan [NE India, N Myanmar].

2. Merrilliopanax listeri (King) H. L. Li, Sargentia 2: 63. 1942.

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Dendropanax listeri King, J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, Pt. 2, Nat. Hist. 67: 294. 1898; Gilibertia listeri (King) Handel-Mazzetti; Merrilliopanax chinensis H. L. Li.

Trees, small, ca. 10 m tall. Branches pubescent or glabrous. Petiole 5–15 cm; leaf blade broadly elliptic or ovate, 6–18 × 4–10 cm, papery, entire or 2- or 3-lobed, lobes ovate-deltoid, central lobe larger, abaxially sparsely stellate pubescent or glabrous, 3-veined from base, secondary veins 4 or 5 pairs, base broadly cuneate to nearly rounded, margin entire or sparsely serrate, apex acuminate. Inflorescence terminal, sparsely stellate pubescent; primary axis 10–15 cm; pedicels 3–8 mm. Fruit ellipsoid-globose, ca. 5 mm in diam. Fl. Apr–May. 2n = 48.

Mixed forests; 1200–1700 m. NW Yunnan [NE India, N Myanmar].

This species is used medicinally and as an ornamental.


西藏常春木 xi zang chang chun mu


Trees, small. Branches, leaves, and inflorescences densely yellowish or ferruginous stellate, later glabrescent. Petiole 4–20
cm; leaf blade broadly ovate, suborbicular, or cordiform, 10–22 × 8–23 cm, membranous to papery, entire or 3-lobed, with 5–7 distinct, palmate veins, base cordate, margin irregularly serrate, spinulate apically, apex acuminate, rarely caudate. Inflorescence terminal, densely yellowish or ferruginous stellate, later glabrescent; pedicels 3–7 mm. Fruit globose, 3–4 mm in diam. Fl. Jul–Aug.

Mixed forests; 1500–3100 m. S Xizang [Bhutan, NE India, Nepal].

This species is used medicinally and as an ornamental.