

## 8. POLIOTHYRSIS Oliver, Hooker's Icon. Pl. 19: t. 1885. 1889.

山拐枣属 shan guai zao shu

Trees, monoecious, deciduous. Leaves alternate; stipules not seen; petiole usually with a single or pair of small, rounded glands at apex on adaxial surface, sometimes with additional glands along distal half of petiole; leaf blade palmately 3–5-veined at base, margin glandular-serrate. Flowers hypogynous, unisexual, in terminal or rarely axillary many flowered panicles, pistillate flowers in upper part of inflorescence, staminate ones in lower part; bracts present; pedicels articulate. Sepals 5, valvate, nearly free, texture rather thick. Petals absent. Disk glands absent. Staminate flowers: stamens many, free, shorter than sepals; anthers ellipsoid or transverse-ellipsoid, connective much dilated, curved, bringing both locules to face in same direction (toward periphery of flower); abortive ovary very small. Pistillate flowers: staminodes many, surrounding ovary base, resembling small stamens; ovary superior, 1-loculed; placentas 3 or 4, filiform, finally woody, persistent; ovules numerous; styles 3, narrowly cylindrical, joined in basal 1/3, with free distal parts strongly reflexed against ovary; stigmas flattened, triangular, lobed. Capsule narrowly ovoid, 3-valvate; outer layer of pericarp thin, dehiscent; inner layer thin, woody, persistent; valves characteristically splitting from apex and base and remaining attached by persistent woody placental strips; styles caducous. Seeds many, arranged vertically, compressed-flat, winged; wing flat, papery, completely encircling seed, seed proper less than 1/2 as long as wing.

- One species: China.

**1. *Poliothyrsis sinensis*** Oliver, Hooker's Icon. Pl. 19: t. 1885. 1889.

山拐枣 shan guai zao

Trees, 7–15 m tall; bark gray-brown; branchlets gray, twig tips at first pubescent with short, spreading, crisped hairs, later glabrous. Petiole 2–6 cm, initially pubescent, glabrescent; leaf blade greenish abaxially, deep green and shiny adaxially, ovate or ovate-oblong, sometimes ovate-cordate, 8–18 × 4–10 cm, thickly papery, abaxially densely pubescent at first with hairs rather long (0.5–1 mm) and semiappressed, glabrescent, adaxially pubescent along veins, midvein and lateral veins prominent abaxially, lateral veins 5 or 6 pairs, second basal pair high ascending, base rounded or cordate, margin serrate, apex acute or obtuse and contracting gradually to a short acumen. Panicle 10–20 cm; rachis very densely pale grayish tomentose throughout, indumentum often completely obscuring rachis surface. Pedicels 2–3 mm in staminate flowers, 4–6 in pistillate flowers; bracts lanceolate, to 4 mm, very early caducous; bracteoles similar but much smaller, 1–1.5 mm. Sepals ovate, 4–5 mm, midvein prominent on outside, outside densely grayish tomentose, inside glabrous except for densely tomentose margin, margin thickened, apex acute. Staminate flowers: stamens unequal in length, longest ca. 1 mm; filaments glabrous; anthers ca. 0.3 mm. Pistillate flowers: ovary ovoid, longitudinally ridged, densely tomentose; styles 1–3 mm, tomentose; stigmas large, 1–2 mm, ± bifurcate, branch tips dilated, flattened, lobed, adaxially glabrous, drying blackish. Capsule ovoid, tomentose, individual valves acutely fusiform, 2–3 cm, ca. 1 cm in diam. Seeds compressed-flat, each surrounded and enclosed by a ± elliptic or oblong wing 5–10 mm, seed proper small, less than 1/2 as long as wing. Fl. Jun–Jul, fr. May–Sep.

- Evergreen and deciduous broad-leaved mixed forests, deciduous broad-leaved forests on mountain slopes or at foot of mountains; 400–

1500 m. Anhui, Fujian, S Gansu, Guangdong, Guizhou, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, S Shaanxi, Sichuan, NE Yunnan, Zhejiang.

"*Poliothyrsis sinensis* f. *subglabra*" (S. S. Lai, Bull. Bot. Res., Harbin 14: 228. 1994) belongs here but was not validly published under Art. 37.2 of the *Vienna Code* because three gatherings were indicated as types (S. S. Lai 7001, H. L. Zhang & Y. R. Zeng 27133, and S. S. Lai 062).

