

6. RHODOMYRTUS (Candolle) Reichenbach, Deut. Bot. Herb.-Buch 177. 1841.

桃金娘属 tao jin niang shu

Myrtus sect. *Rhodomyrtus* Candolle, Prodr. 3: 240. 1828.

Shrubs or trees. Leaves opposite, tripliveined, petiolate. Inflorescences axillary, 1[–3]-flowered. Hypanthium ovoid to subglobose. Calyx lobes 4 to 5, leathery, persistent. Petals 4 or 5, larger than calyx lobes. Stamens many, separate, in many whorls, usually shorter than petals; anthers dorsifixed to nearly basifixed, versatile, longitudinally dehiscent. Ovary inferior, adnate to hypanthium, 3(or 4)-loculed; ovules arranged in 2 lines in each locule. Style linear; stigma capitate or peltate. Berry ovoid, urceolate, or globose. Seeds many, flat, reniform, separated by longitudinal septa and a false transverse septum; seed coat hard; embryo curved or spiral; hypocotyl long; cotyledons small.

About 18 species: tropical Asia, Australia, SW Pacific islands; one species in China.

1. *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* (Aiton) Hasskarl, Flora 25(Beibl.): 35. 1842.

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Myrtus tomentosa Aiton, Hort. Kew. 2: 159. 1789; *M. canescens* Loureiro.

Shrubs, 1–2 m tall. Branchlets grayish tomentose. Leaves opposite; petiole 4–7 mm; leaf blade elliptic to obovate, 3–8 × 1–4 cm, leathery, pubescent when young but glabrescent and shiny with age, abaxially gray tomentose, secondary veins 1 on each side of midvein, originating near leaf blade base, and meeting at apex, tertiary veins 4–6 on each side of midvein and

connecting midvein to secondary veins, reticulate veins obvious, intramarginal veins 3–4 mm from margin, base broadly cuneate, apex rounded to obtuse and often slightly emarginate or sometimes slightly apiculate. Flowers 1[–3], stipitate, 2–4 cm in diam. Hypanthium obovoid, ca. 6 mm, gray tomentose. Calyx lobes 5, subrounded, 4–5 mm, persistent. Petals 5, violet, obovate, 1.3–2 cm. Stamens red, 7–8 mm. Ovary 3(or 4)-loculed. Style ca. 1 cm. Berry purplish black when mature, urceolate, 1.5–2 × 1–1.5 cm. Fl. Apr–May.

Coppices, mountain slopes, low hills, grasslands. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, S Hunan, Jiangxi, Taiwan, S Yunnan, Zhejiang [Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan (Ryukyu Islands), Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam].

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