
鹅掌柴  e zhang chai shu

Agalma Miquel; Heptapleurum Gaertner; Sciodaphyllum P. Browne.

Shrubs or trees, sometimes climbers or epiphytes, evergreen, hermaphroditic or andromonoecious, unarmed. Leaves palmately compound, rarely unifoliolate (not in China), margins entire to serrate; stipules united within petiole. Inflorescence a terminal or pseudo-lateral panicle or compound raceme; flowers arranged in umbels, heads, or racemes; bracts pubescent, deciduous or persistent. Pedicels not articulate below ovary. Calyx rim entire or 5-toothed. Petals 5–11, valvate. Stamens 5–11. Ovary (4 or)5–11-compound, rarely unifoliolate (not in China), margins entire to serrate; stipules united within petiole. Inflorescence a terminal or carpellate; styles partly or completely united into a column or stigmas sessile. Fruit a drupe, globose or ovoid. Seeds (4 or)5–11, laterally compressed; endosperm uniform or slightly ruminate.

Nearly 1100 species; widely distributed in tropics and subtropics of both hemispheres; 35 species (14 endemic) in SW and SE China.

Several recent phylogenetic studies have shown that Schefflera is clearly polyphyletic (Lowry et al., S. Afr. J. Bot. 70: 382–392. 2004; Plunkett et al., Pl. Syst. Evol. 245: 1–39. 2004; Plunkett et al., Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 92: 202–224. 2005) and that the Asian species belong to a single, well-supported, morphologically coherent clade. The name Schefflera will ultimately have to be restricted to a small group of species from the SW Pacific while the Asian species will have to be transferred to one or more other genera.

We were unable to treat Schefflera cavaleriei (H. Léveillé) Frodin (World Checklist Bibliogr. Araliaceae, 330. 2004 [“2003”]; Heptapleurum cavaleriei H. Léveillé, Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. 9: 326. 1911) because the original description is not sufficiently detailed to associate the name with any of the species recognized here, and we were unable to locate the type material, which was collected in Guizhou according to the protologue.

1a. Inflorescence a panicle of racemes or spikes; styles united into a column.
2a. Flowers borne in spikes, sessile; leaflets abaxially densely stellate tomentose, tertiary veins indistinct ........................................ 1. S. delavayi
2b. Flowers borne in racemes, with a distinct pedicel, abaxially glabrous or sparsely stellate pubescent, tertiary veins distinct.
3a. Leaflets 12–16, rarely 7–9.
  4a. Leaflets abaxially stellate pubescent (sometimes very sparsely so on veins), some smaller than others, but never bractlike; lateral veins 8–15 pairs ................................................................. 2. S. chapana
  4b. Leaflets abaxially glabrous, some highly reduced and bractlike, lateral veins 5–8 pairs.
  5a. Leaves adaxially with tertiary veins impressed in dry material ................................................................. 3. S. metcalfiana
  5b. Leaves adaxially with tertiary veins raised in dry material ........................................................................... 4. S. hainanensis
3b. Leaflets 3–9.
  6a. Leaflets abaxially moderately to densely stellate pubescent, margin sparsely serrate, tertiary venation adaxially impressed in dry material, abaxially raised ........................................................................... 5. S. wardii
  6b. Leaflets abaxially glabrous, margin entire, tertiary venation adaxially not impressed in dry material.
  7a. Petiolules to 1(–1.3) cm ........................................................................................................ 6. S. shweliensis
  7b. Petiolules longer than 1.5 cm.
  8a. Leaflets adaxially shiny, lateral veins 16–22 pairs, diverging from midvein at more than 45° angle .... 7. S. multinervia
  8b. Leaflets adaxially not shiny, lateral veins 8–12(–16) pairs, diverging from midvein at less than 45° angle.
  9a. Petals and stamens 5; ovary 5-carpellate ......................................................................................... 8. S. hoi
  9b. Petals and stamens 6; ovary 6-carpellate ......................................................................................... 9. S. taiwaniana
1b. Inflorescence a panicle of umbels or heads; styles distinct or none.
10a. Styles none, stigmas sessile.
11a. Inflorescence with stalked, branched trichomes; largest leaflet more than 11.5 cm wide (rarely only ca. 8 cm wide) ................................................................................................................................. 10. S. petelotii
11b. Inflorescence with stellate trichomes but lacking stalked, branched trichomes; largest leaflet no more than 9 cm wide (rarely to 16 cm in S. elliptica).
12a. Flowers and fruit in heads, sessile or subsessile ........................................................................... 11. S. pauciflora
12b. Flowers and fruit distinctly pedicellate.
13a. Fruit red-brown glandular punctate; disk rounded to flat.
  14a. Ovary 5-carpellate, stigmas 5; calyx obscure, reduced to a line; disk rounded to nearly flat; leaflets subleathery ........................................................................................................ 12. S. leucantha
  14b. Ovary (7 or)8–9-carpellate, stigmas 7–9; calyx evident, forming a distinct rim; disk flat to slightly depressed; leaflets membranous to papery ........................................................................... 13. S. zhuana
13b. Fruit not glandular punctate; disk usually broadly conic to pyramidal.
15a. Ovary 5-loculed ................................................................................................................ 14. S. elliptica
15b. Ovary 6–9(10)-loculed.
10b. Styles distinct, or united into a column.

17a. Styles free at least apically, free arms radiating to recurved (appressed at anthesis, but not fused).

18a. Flowers long pedicellate, arranged in umbels ................................................................. 17. S. hypoleucaoides

18b. Flowers sessile or subsessile (pedicel to 3 mm, but usually obscure), arranged in compact heads.

19a. Leaflets elliptic to slightly ovate, 8–23 × 4–12 cm, base broadly cuneate or rounded; calyx margin entire or subentire ................................................................. 18. S. chinensis

19b. Leaflets lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate, 12–26 × 3–6 cm, base cuneate; calyx margin with 5 sharp teeth ........................................................................................................ 19. S. guizhouensis

17b. Styles completely united into a column.

20a. Inflorescence pseudo-lateral, borne below leaves (at least in fruit).

21a. Leaflets 7–9(–12), leathery, petiole 7–10 mm in diam. at base, with a prominent ligule 15–20 mm; ovary 6-carpellate ........................................................................................................................................... 34. S. lociana

21b. Leaflets 5–7, membranous, petiole 2–4 mm in diam. at base, with a small ligule 2–5 mm; ovary 6–10-carpellate ............................................................................................................................................. 35. S. brevipedicellata

20b. Inflorescence terminal.

22a. Leaflets abaxially stellate pubescent, at least when young (sometimes minute and scattered).

23a. Petals stellate pubescent; terminal leaflet often more than 8 cm wide (sometimes narrower in S. hypoleuca).

24a. Leaf apically acute; inflorescence stellate pubescent or glabrous, inflorescence with primary axis 15–30(–40) cm ............................................................................................................................................. 20. S. hypoleuca

24b. Leaf acipitately acuminate; inflorescence densely ferruginous-brown stellate pubescent (glabrescent), primary axis to ca. 75 cm ........................................................................................................ 21. S. macrophylla

23b. Petals glabrous; terminal leaflets less than 8 cm wide.

25a. Secondary and tertiary veins adaxially impressed in dry material.

26a. Leaflets oblong or elliptic to slightly obovate, abaxially densely yellow-brown stellate pubescent; inflorescence rounded, primary axis to 15(–25) cm .................................................................................................................. 22. S. fengii

26b. Leaflets narrowly obovate to oblanceolate, abaxially gray stellate pubescent or sparsely pubescent; inflorescence tall, primary axis 25–40 cm .............................................................................................. 23. S. rhododendrifolia

25b. Secondary and tertiary veins adaxially not impressed in dry material.

27a. Styles stout, shorter than 1.5 mm in fruit; ovary 5–9(or 10)-carpellate; inflorescence axes light to rusty brown pubescent ................................................................................................................ 24. S. heptaphylla

27b. Styles slender, longer than 1.5 mm in fruit; ovary 5(or 6)-carpellate; inflorescence axes not light to rusty brown pubescent.

28a. Inflorescence compact, primary axis 5–15(–17) cm, gray or brown tomentose; margins of leaflets often sparsely to moderately serrulate ................................................................. 25. S. bodinieri

28b. Inflorescence elongate, primary axis at least 25 cm, densely yellow-brown or ferruginous pubescent; margins of leaflets usually entire, sometimes sparsely serrulate.

29a. Leaflets 7, elliptic, abaxially ferruginous stellate pubescent ........................................... 26. S. marlipoensis

29b. Leaflets (5–)9–13, ovate to ovate-lanceolate or oblong-lanceolate, abaxially minutely stellate pubescent .......................................................... 27. S. minutistellata

22b. Leaflets abaxially completely glabrous.

30a. Leaflets less than 2 cm wide, linear-oblong, abaxially ferruginous pubescent .................. 28. S. parvifoliolata

30b. Leaflets more than 2.5 cm wide.

31a. Leaflets obovate-oblong, broadest in distal half.

32a. Leaves with secondary and tertiary veins adaxially impressed in dry material .................. 29. S. glabrescens

32b. Leaves with secondary and tertiary veins adaxially not impressed in dry material .......... 30. S. napuoensis

31b. Leaflets ovate-lanceolate or elliptic, broadest at middle or in basal half.

33a. Leaflets leathery, elliptic, secondary and tertiary veins adaxially impressed in dry material; inflorescence a corymbose panicle, glabrous ........................................................................................................... 31. S. pes-avis

33b. Leaflets papyry to subleathery, secondary and tertiary veins adaxially not impressed in dry material; inflorescence paniculate, ± pubescent.

34a. Ovary 5–9(or 10)-carpellate, styles shorter than 1.5 mm .................................................. 24. S. heptaphylla

34b. Ovary 5-carpellate, styles (1–)1.5–3.5 mm. ........................................................................ 25. S. bodinieri

35a. Inflorescence compact, primary axis 5–15(–17) cm, gray or brown tomentose ............... 25. S. bodinieri

35b. Inflorescence elongate, primary axis at least (20–)30 cm.

36a. Petals stellate pubescent ..................................................................................................... 20. S. hypoleuca
36b. Petals glabrous.
37a. Leaflets oblong-lanceolate, 20–25 × 5.5–6.5 cm, apex acuminate
37b. Leaflets oblong-elliptic or elliptic, 11–15 × 5–9 cm, apex abruptly acute


Shrubs or trees, to 6 m tall, probably hermaphroditic. Petiole 13–22 cm; petiolules 1–4.5 cm; leaflets 12–16, ovate to ovate-elliptic, base cuneate to broadly cuneate, margin entire with 2–4 sparse serrations, apex acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of racemes, yellowish gray stellate pubescent; primary axis to ca. 50 cm; secondary axes to ca. 60 cm; pedicels 4–6 mm. Calyx pubescent, 5-toothed. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles united into a column. Fl. Oct–Nov, fr. Dec.

Scattered in forests, mountain slopes; ca. 1400 m. SW Guangxi [Vietnam].

Evergreen broad-leaved forests; 1300–1600 m. Hainan [Vietnam].

Evergreen broad-leaved forests; 1000–3000 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan [Vietnam].

This species is used medicinally.

Agalma shweliense (W. W. Smith) Hutchinson.

Trees, to 20 m tall, probably andromonoecious. Petiole (8–)12–24 cm; petiolules to (1–)1.5 cm; leaflets 5–(9)–11, narrowly obovate to oblanceolate, 6–15 × 1.5–3.5(–4) cm, leathery, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins 7–9 pairs, nearly obscure to conspicuous on both surfaces, tertiary veins indistinct, base narrowly acute, margin entire, apex long acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of racemes, gray-white stellate pubescent, glabrescent; primary axis 15–40 cm; secondary axes often present only in basal portion of primary axis, to 13 cm; pedicels 2–4 mm. Calyx glabrous to sparsely stellate pubescent, 5-toothed. Ovary 5(or 6)-carpellate; styles united into a column. Fruit blue-black when mature, globose, 4–5 mm in diam., slightly 5-ribbed when dry; styles persistent, ca. 1.5 mm. Fl. Aug–Nov, fr. Oct–Jan. 2n = 48*.


多脉鹅掌柴 duo mai e zhang chai

Agalma multinervium (H. L. Li) Hutchinson.

Trees, to 8 m tall, probably andromonoecious. Petiole 8–22 cm; petiolules 2–5 cm; leaflets 5, narrowly obovate to narrowly elliptic, 15–30 × 2–5 cm, papery to subleathery, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins 16–30 pairs, conspicuous on both surfaces, base cuneate to acute, margin entire, apex acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of racemes, ferruginous or sparsely stellate pubescent, sometimes glabrescent; primary axis to 25 cm or more; secondary axes ca. 20 cm, ferruginous. Calyx sparsely stellate to glabrous, inconspicuously 5-toothed. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles united into a column. Fruit unknown. Fl. Sep.


红河鹅掌柴 hong he e zhang chai


Trees, to 12 m tall, andromonoecious. Petiole (6–)10–50(–60) cm; petiolules 1–5 cm; leaflets (3–)5–9, narrowly obovate to oblong, 5–22(–30) × 1.5–5(–10) cm, papery to subleathery, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins 8–22 pairs, conspicuous on both surfaces, base rounded to acute, margin entire, apex acuminate, rarely acute. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of racemes, ferruginous or sparsely stellate pubescent, sometimes glabrescent; primary axis 15–50 cm; secondary axes 15(–25) cm, ferruginous; pedicels 2–4(–6) mm. Calyx rim 1.5–2.5 mm, sometimes scarios, sparsely stellate to glabrous, inconspicuously 5-toothed. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles united into a column. Fruit globose, 4–5 mm in diam., slightly 5-ribbed when dry; styles persistent, ca. 1.5 mm. Fl. Aug–Sep, fr. Aug–Nov.

Dense forests in valleys; 1400–3300 m. SW Sichuan, SE Xizang, Yunnan [Vietnam].


台湾鹅掌柴 tai wan e zhang chai

Agalma taiwanianum Nakai, J. Arnold Arbor. 5: 19. 1924.

Trees, to 2–4 m tall, probably andromonoecious. Petiole 10–25 cm; petiolules 1–3 cm; leaflets 4–9, narrowly ovate to narrowly oblong, (5–)10–15 × (1.5–)2.5–5 cm, papery, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins 5–7 pairs, nearly obscure, base narrowly acute, margin entire, apex acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of racemes, sparsely stellate pubescent, glabrescent; primary axis to 25–(30) cm; secondary axes often present only in basal portion of primary axis, to 10 cm; pedicels 5–6 mm. Calyx glabrous, inconspicuously 6-toothed. Ovary 6-carpellate; styles united into a column. Fruit globose, 5–7 mm in diam., style persistent, 1–2 mm. Fl. Aug–Oct, fr. Oct–Nov, Jan, Mar.


金平鹅掌柴 jin ping e zhang chai

Schefflera chinpingensis C. J. Tseng & G. Hoo.

Shrubs, to 5 m tall, probably hermaphroditic. Petiole to 40 cm; petiolules 1.5–7 cm; leaflets 5 or 6, ovate or ovate-oblong, 11.5–35 × 8–15(–20) cm, leathery, abaxially sparsely stellate pubescent, adaxially glabrous, secondary veins 10–13 pairs, tertiary veins raised on both surfaces, base rounded, margin entire, minutely revolute, apex shortly caudate-acuminate, rarely obtuse. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, with dense, scattered, branched trichomes; primary axis 4–10 cm; secondary axes to 15 cm; pedicels 1.5–4 cm. Calyx glabrous to sparsely stellate pubescent, inconspicuously toothed. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles united into a very short column; disk slightly convex. Fruit unknown. Fl. Apr.

Forests or roadsides on mountain slopes; 300–500 m. SE Yunnan [Vietnam].


球序鹅掌柴 qiu xu e zhang chai
Schefflera glomerulata H. L. Li.

Trees to ca. 9 m tall, sometimes scandent shrubs to 15 m tall, hermaphroditic. Petiole 10–20 cm; petiolules 2–5 cm; leaflets (3–)5–7, obovate to elliptic or obovate, 8–20 × 3–9 cm, leathery, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins ca. 8 pairs, tertiary veins prominent, raised on both surfaces, base cuneate, margin entire, apex shortly acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of heads, sparsely stellate tomentose, glabrescent; primary axis 5–35 cm; secondary axes to (15–)20 cm; flowers sessile or sub-sessile, 5–8 per head. Calyx ca. 1 mm, subventrile. Ovary 5-carpellate; stigmas 5, sessile, inconspicuous. Fruit ovoid to subglobose or obovoid, 3–5 mm in diam., 5-ribbed when dry; disk conic-pentagonal. Fl. May, Jun, Sep, fr. Jun, Jul, Sep–Dec.

Evergreen broad-leaved forests in valleys or on mountain slopes; 200–1700 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, SE Yunnan [India, Laos, Vietnam].

This species is used medicinally.


白花鹅掌柴 · bai hua e zhang chai

Schefflera kwangiensis Merrill ex H. L. Li; S. tenuis H. L. Li; S. yunnanensis H. L. Li.

Shrubs or climbers, sometimes epiphytes, hermaphroditic. Petiole 3–14(–17) cm; petiolules 0.5–3(–5) cm, slender; leaflets 5–7, obovate or elliptic, usually narrowly so, 5–(15–)15 × 1.5–4(–6) cm, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins 5–7 pairs, tertiary veins raised on both surfaces, prominent, base cuneate or broadly so, rarely nearly rounded, margin entire, minutely thickened, apex acuminate to caudate. Inflorescence a compact terminal panicle of umbels, sparsely pubescent; primary axis 1–4 cm; secondary axes 10(–15) cm; pedicels 2.5–7 mm. Calyx obscure. Ovary 5-carpellate; stigmas 5, sessile. Fruit globose to ovoid, rarely obovoid, 4–5 mm in diam., 5-ribbed when dry, generally concolorously orange-red glandular punctate; disk slightly rounded to nearly flat. Fl. Jan–Feb, fr. Mar–Aug.

Evergreen broad-leaved forests in valleys; 1200–1700 m. SW Guangxi, NW Yunnan [Thailand, N Vietnam].


光华鹅掌柴 · guang hua e zhang chai

Trees, to ca. 20 m tall, hermaphroditic. Petiole 3.5–18.5 cm; petiolules (0.5–)1.5–8 cm, slender; leaflets (4 or)5, elliptic to slightly ovate, 5.5–20.5 × 2.6–7.5 cm, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins 6–8 pairs, tertiary veins raised on both surfaces, prominent, base rounded to broadly acute, margin entire, revolute, minutely thickened, apex acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal (rarely lateral) panicle of umbels, densely light gray tomentose; primary axis 1–6 cm; secondary axes 5.5–8 cm; pedicels 1–2 mm. Calyx a narrow rim. Ovary (7 or)8 or 9-carpellate; stigmas (7 or)8 or 9, sessile. Fruit globose to slightly ovoid, 3.5–4 mm in diam., (7 or)8–9-ribbed when dry, conspicuously red-orange glandular punctate; disk weakly concave, slightly undulate. Fl. Dec–Jan, Apr, fr. Apr–May.

• Evergreen broad-leaved forests; 1400–2700 m. SE Xizang (Médog).


密脉鹅掌柴 · mi mai e zhang chai

Sciodaphyllum ellipticum Blume; Bijd. 878. 1826; Hedera venosa Wallich; Paratropia pubigera Brogniart & Planchon; Schefflera fukienensis Merrill; S. pubicera (Brogniart & Planchon) Frodin.

Shrubs or small trees, to 10 m tall, sometimes scandent or epiphytic. Petiole 4–14(–18) cm; petiolules 2–5 cm; leaflets 5–7, elliptic to oblong or obovate, 11–16(–26) × 4–6(–16) cm, leathery, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins 5 or 6(–20) pairs, tertiary veins raised, prominent, base attenuate or obtuse to nearly rounded, margin entire, minutely thickened, sometimes revolute, apex acuminate to acute. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, sparsely to densely stellate when young, glabrescent; primary axis (2–)4–20(–30) cm; secondary axes to 18 cm; peduncles 0.5–1.5 cm; pedicels 2–3 mm. Calyx obscure. Ovary 5-carpellate; stigmas 5, sessile. Fruit ovoid to ellipsoid or subglobose, 3–4 mm, 5-ribbed when dry; disk broadly conic to pyramidal. Fl. Mar–Jul, fr. Feb–Jul, Oct.

Evergreen broad-leaved forests in valleys, or epiphytic on trees; 900–2100 m. Guangxi, Guizhou, W Hunan, Xizang, Yunnan [India, Thailand, Vietnam].

The name Schefflera venulosa (Wight & Arnott) Harms (Paratropia venulosa Wight & Arnott) has been misapplied to this species.

Schefflera elliptica is used medicinally.


鹅掌藤 · e zhang teng


Shrubs, sometimes climbers, to 4 m tall, hermaphroditic. Petiole (6–)10–20 cm; petiolules (0.6–)1–3 cm; leaflets (5–)9(–10), obovate-oblong to oblong or elliptic, 6–10(–12) × (1–)1.5–3.5(–4.5) cm, subleathery, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins 4–6 pairs, tertiary veins distinct, base cuneate to broadly so, margin entire, apex obtuse or abruptly acute, rarely attenuate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, sparsely stellate tomentose, glabrescent; primary axis to 3–8 cm; secondary axes to 10 cm; pedicels less than 1.5–3 mm. Calyx subentire. Ovary 5- or 6-carpellate; stigmas sessile, 5 or 6. Fruit subglobose, ca. 5 mm, 5–6-ribbed when dry; pedicels 3–6 mm. Fl. Jul–Oct, fr. Aug–Dec. 2n = 24*.

• Along stream banks, wet forests, sometimes epiphytic; below 900 m. Hainan, Taiwan.

This species is used medicinally and as an ornamental.


扁盘鹅掌柴 · bian pan e zhang chai
Schefflera hypoleuca (Kurz) Harms in Engler & Prantl, Nat. Pflanzenfam. 3(8): 38. 1894.

Trees, probably andromonoecious. Petiole ca. 35 cm; petiolules 0.8–3 cm; leaflets 7 or 8, lanceolate or elliptic-lanceolate, 12–26 × 3–6 cm, papery, abaxially gray-yellow stellate pubescent, adaxially glabrous, secondary veins 12–14 pairs, raised abaxially, base acute, margin entire, minutely revolute, apex acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of heads, densely white woolly stellate pubescent; primary axis ca. 50 cm, glabrescent; secondary axis to ca. 15 cm, shorter apically, with a terminal head of bisexual flowers and 1 to few lateral heads of apparently male flowers, flowers sessile, heads globose. Calyx densely white stellate. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles 5, united at base, free apically. Fruit unknown. Fl. Oct.

Dense forests. Guizhou.


Trees, tall, probably andromonoecious. Petiole 35–45 cm; petiolules 3–9 cm; leaflets oblong to elliptic or slightly ovate, (7.5-)11–26 × 5–13 cm, leathery, abaxially ferruginous or brownish-stellate pubescent, later subglabrous, adaxially glabrous, secondary veins 10–16 pairs, raised abaxially, tertiary veins raised abaxially, base obtuse or subrounded, margin entire or with a few sparse teeth apically, apex acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, densely ferruginous to light brown stellate pubescent, adaxially glabrous, secondary veins 12–14 pairs, raised abaxially, base acute, margin entire, minutely revolute, apex acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of heads, densely white woolly stellate pubescent; primary axis ca. 50 cm, glabrescent; secondary axis to ca. 15 cm, shorter apically, with a terminal head of bisexual flowers and 1 to few lateral heads of apparently male flowers, flowers sessile, heads globose. Calyx densely white stellate. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles 5, united at base, free apically. Fruit unknown. Fl. Oct.

Dense forests. Guizhou.

Schefflera hypoleuca var. tomentosa Grushvitzky & Skvortsova, Pflanzenfam. 3(8): 38. 1894.

Trees, 15 m tall, andromonoecious. Petiole 35–45 cm; petiolules 3–9 cm; leaflets oblong to elliptic or slightly ovate, (7.5-)11–26 × 5–13 cm, leathery, abaxially ferruginous or brownish-stellate pubescent, later subglabrous, adaxially glabrous, secondary veins 10–16 pairs, raised abaxially, tertiary veins raised abaxially, base obtuse or subrounded, margin entire or with a few sparse teeth apically, apex acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, densely ferruginous to light brown stellate pubescent, adaxially glabrous, secondary veins 12–14 pairs, raised abaxially, base acute, margin entire, minutely revolute, apex acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of heads, densely white woolly stellate pubescent; primary axis ca. 50 cm, glabrescent; secondary axis to ca. 15 cm, shorter apically, with a terminal head of bisexual flowers and 1 to few lateral heads of apparently male flowers, flowers sessile, heads globose. Calyx densely white stellate. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles 5, united at base, free apically. Fruit unknown. Fl. Oct.

Dense forests. Guizhou.

Schefflera hypoleuca (Kurz) Harms, Forest Fl. Burma 1: 539. 1877.

Trees, 10 m tall, andromonoecious. Petiole 30–50 cm; petiolules 1–2 × 10 cm; leaflets usually 7, often also with 1 much smaller leaflet, ovate to elliptic or oblong, 10–23 × 4–12 cm, papery to leathery, abaxially sparsely stellate tomentose (occasionally glabrous), adaxially glaucous and glabrous, secondary veins 8–12 pairs, conspicuous adaxially, base cuneate to rounded, margin entire, rarely serrate or lobed, apex acute. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, stellate pubescent or glabrous; primary axis 15–30 × 40 cm; secondary axes to 23 cm, with a terminal umbel of bisexual flowers and usually 1–4 umbels of male flowers; pedicels 8–14 mm. Calyx sparsely stellate pubescent. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles united into a column; stigmas minutely capitate. Fruit subglobose to ovoid, 3–5 mm in diam.; styles persistent, ca. 3 mm. Fl. Jan–Feb, fr. Apr.

Dense forests; ca. 1300 m. Xizang (Mêdog), SW Yunnan [India, Myanmar, Vietnam].


Trees, probably andromonoecious. Petiole ca. 35 cm; petiolules 0.8–3 cm; leaflets 7 or 8, lanceolate or elliptic-lanceolate, 12–26 × 3–6 cm, papery, abaxially gray-yellow stellate pubescent, adaxially glabrous, secondary veins 12–14 pairs, raised abaxially, base acute, margin entire, minutely revolute, apex acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of heads, densely white woolly stellate pubescent; primary axis ca. 50 cm, glabrescent; secondary axis to ca. 15 cm, shorter apically, with a terminal head of bisexual flowers and 1 to few lateral heads of apparently male flowers, flowers sessile, heads globose. Calyx densely white stellate. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles 5, united at base, free apically. Fruit unknown. Fl. Oct.

Dense forests. Guizhou.

Schefflera hypoleuca (Kurz) Harms in Engler & Prantl, Nat. Pflanzenfam. 3(8): 38. 1894.


Trees, 15 m tall, andromonoecious. Petiole 35–45 cm; petiolules 3–9 cm; leaflets oblong to elliptic or slightly ovate, (7.5-)11–26 × 5–13 cm, leathery, abaxially ferruginous or brownish-stellate pubescent, later subglabrous, adaxially glabrous, secondary veins 10–16 pairs, raised abaxially, tertiary veins raised abaxially, base obtuse or subrounded, margin entire or with a few sparse teeth apically, apex acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, densely ferruginous to light brown stellate pubescent, adaxially glabrous, secondary veins 12–14 pairs, raised abaxially, base acute, margin entire, minutely revolute, apex acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of heads, densely white woolly stellate pubescent; primary axis ca. 50 cm, glabrescent; secondary axis to ca. 15 cm, shorter apically, with a terminal head of bisexual flowers and 1 to few lateral heads of apparently male flowers, flowers sessile, heads globose. Calyx densely white stellate. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles 5, united at base, free apically. Fruit unknown. Fl. Oct.

Dense forests. Guizhou.

Schefflera hypoleuca (Kurz) Harms, Forest Fl. Burma 1: 539. 1877.

Trees, 10 m tall, andromonoecious. Petiole 30–50 cm; petiolules 1–2 × 10 cm; leaflets usually 7, often also with 1 much smaller leaflet, ovate to elliptic or oblong, 10–23 × 4–12 cm, papery to leathery, abaxially sparsely stellate tomentose (occasionally glabrous), adaxially glaucous and glabrous, secondary veins 8–12 pairs, conspicuous adaxially, base cuneate to rounded, margin entire, rarely serrate or lobed, apex acute. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, stellate pubescent or glabrous; primary axis 15–30 × 40 cm; secondary axes to 23 cm, with a terminal umbel of bisexual flowers and usually 1–4 umbels of male flowers; pedicels 8–14 mm. Calyx sparsely stellate pubescent. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles united into a column; stigmas minutely capitate. Fruit subglobose to ovoid, 3–5 mm in diam.; styles persistent, ca. 3 mm. Fl. Jan–Feb, fr. Apr.

Dense forests; ca. 1300 m. Xizang (Mêdog), SW Yunnan [India, Myanmar, Vietnam].


文山鹅掌柴　wen shan e zhang chai
Trees, to 15 m tall, probably andromonoecious. Petiole 6–30 cm; petiolules 1–6 cm; leaflets 5–7, oblong or elliptic to slightly obovate, 10–21 × (27) × 3–9 × (16) cm, leathery, abaxially densely yellow-brown stellate tomentum, epidermis obscure, adaxially sparsely yellow-brown stellate pubescent on veins or glabrous, secondary veins 8–12 pairs, tertiary veins slightly raised abaxially, distinctly impressed adaxially in dry material, base acute to nearly rounded, margin entire or with 1–4 small teeth apically, apex acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, densely light brown to ferruginous-brown stellate pubescent, glabrescent; primary axis to ca. 20 cm; secondary axes to ca. 15 cm; pedicels 2–3 mm at anthesis, expanding to 8 mm in fruit. Calyx inconspicuously 5-toothed, sparsely stellate pubescent. Ovary 4 or 5-carpellate; styles united into a column. Fruit globose, 3.4 mm in diam., ribbed when dry, sparsely stellate pubescent to glabrous; styles persistent, 1.5–2 mm. Fl. Aug, fr. Oct–Nov.


凹脉鹅掌柴　ao mai e zhang chai

Panax rhododendrifolius Griffith, Init. Pl. Khasyah Mts. 487. 1848; Agalma glaucum Seemann; A. tomentosum (Buchanan-Hamilton) Seemann; Hedera tomentosa Buchanan-Hamilton; Heptapleurum glaucum (Seemann) C. B. Clarke (1879), not Kurz (1877); H. impressum C. B. Clarke; Schefflera impressa (C. B. Clarke) Harms.

Trees, to 20 m tall, andromonoecious. Petiole to 30 cm; petiolules 1–2.5 cm, stout; leaflets (5 or)6 or 7(–9), narrowly obovate or oblong-lanceolate to nearly elliptic, 12–20 × 3–5 cm, leathery, abaxially densely gray-white stellate pubescent when young, later glabrescent and glaucous, adaxially glabrous and rugose, secondary veins 8–12 pairs, tertiary veins distinctly impressed adaxially in dry material, base cuneate, margin entire, revolute, sometimes with serrate or pinnate lobes on young plants, apex acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, densely stellate tomentose, glabrescent; primary axis to 20 cm; secondary axes to 18 cm; pedicels 5–10 mm. Calyx ca. 3 mm, inconspicuously 5-toothed. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles united into a column. Fruit globose, 4.5–5 mm in diam., angular when dry; styles persistent, 1.5–2 mm; stigmas subcapitate. Fl. Aug, fr. unknown. 2n = 48.

Evergreen broad-leaved forests; 2500–3200 m. SE Xizang [Bhutan, India, Nepal].


鹅掌柴　e zhang chai

Vitis heptaphylla Linnaeus, Mant. Pl. 2: 212. 1771; Aralia octophylla Loureiro; Heptapleurum octophyllum (Loureiro) Bentham ex Hance; Paratropia cantoniensis Hooker & Arnott; Schefflera atrifoliata R. M. Hiao; S. octophylla (Loureiro) Harms; S. rubriflora C. J. Tseng & G. Hoo.

Trees, to 15 m tall, andromonoecious. Petiole (5–)10–30 cm; petiolules 1.5–5 cm; leaflets 6–9–(11), elliptic to oblong-elliptic or obovate-elliptic, 7–18 × 3–5 cm, papery to leathery, densely stellate pubescent when young, glabrescent except on midvein and in axils of veins, secondary veins 7–10 pairs, tertiary veins inconspicuous, base attenuate or cuneate to obtuse or rounded, margin entire, often serrate or pinnately lobed on young plants, apex abruptly acute to acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, densely stellate tomentose, glabrescent; primary axis to 35 cm; secondary axes 25–35 cm, with a terminal umbel of bisexual flowers and several to many lateral umbels of bisexual or more often male flowers, usually also with 1 to several bisexual flowers borne just below apical umbel; pedicels 4–5 mm. Calyx pubescent at first, entire or 5- or 6-toothed. Ovary 5–9(10)-carpellate; styles united into a thick column less than 1.5 mm. Fruit globose, ca. 5 mm in diam., inconspicuously angled when dry; styles persistent, to ca. 1.5 mm. Fl. Sep–Dec, fr. Dec–Feb.

Evergreen broad-leaved forests on mountain slopes; 100–2100 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hunan, Jiangxi, SE Xizang, Yunnan, S Zhejiang [India, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam].

This species is used for its timber and also medicinally.


短序鹅掌柴　duan xu e zhang chai


Trees, to ca. 8 m tall, probably hermaphroditic. Petiole 14–26 cm; petiolules unequal, 0.5–8 cm; leaflets 6 or 7, oblong or oblong-elliptic, 12–24 × 4–10.5 cm, papery, abaxially minutely ferrugineous stellate, adaxially sparsely ferrugineous to glabrous, secondary veins 8–11 pairs, raised abaxially, tertiary veins inconspicuous, base broadly cuneate, margin entire or remotely revolute, apex shortly acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, ferrugineous pubescent; primary axis ca. 27 cm, secondary axes to 15 cm; pedicels 5–6 mm. Calyx ca. 4 mm, glabrous. Ovary 5- or 6-carpellate; styles united into a column, ca. 1.5 mm at anthesis. Fruit unknown. Fl. Oct–Nov. Fr. Feb, Apr.

Dense forests on slopes or in valleys; 400–1000 m. Guangxi, Guizhou, W Hubei, Sichuan, Yunnan [Vietnam].

27. **Schefflera minutistellata** Merrill ex H. L. Li, Sargentia 2: 24. 1942.

**Schefflera angustifoliolata** C. N. Ho.

Shrubs or small trees, to 12 m tall, andromonoecious. Petiole 3.5–25 cm; petiolules 0.4–5(–6) cm; leaflets 5–9(–11), ovate-lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, rarely ovate to elliptic, 8–12(–18) × 1–4.5(–5.5) cm, membranous or papery, abaxially glabrous or sparsely minutely stellate pubescent, adaxially glabrous, secondary veins ca. 10 pairs, inconspicuous to slightly raised on both surfaces, base cuneate or broadly cuneate to rounded, margin entire or usually sparsely to moderately serrulate, apex acuminate to caudate-acuminate, sometimes falcate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, gray or brown pubescent; primary axis 4–16(–20) cm, secondary axes 1.5–7 cm, with a terminal umbel of bisexual flowers and sometimes 1(or 2) lateral umbels of male flowers; pedicels 4–7 mm at anthesis, to 8 mm in fruit. Calyx sparsely gray-white stellate pubescent. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles united into a column, ca. 1 mm. Fruit subglobose to ellipsoid or ovoid, 4–7 × 4–6 mm; styles persistent, minutely capitate, to 1.5–3.5 mm. Fl. Oct–Nov, fr. Feb–Apr.

Dense forests or small trees, to 8 m tall, andromonoecious. Petiole 10–20 cm; petiolules 0.5–4 cm; leaflets 6–10, linear-oblong to slightly oblanceolate, 3–11 × 1–2 cm, leathery, both surfaces glabrous, adaxially minutely white pubescent, secondary veins 10–14 pairs, obscure abaxially, slightly impressed adaxially in dry material, tertiary veins inconspicuous, base broadly cuneate to subrounded, margin entire or remotely serrate apically, apex narrowly acute or shortly acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, densely ferrugineous stellate pubescent; pedicels 3–4 mm. Calyx ca. 2 mm, 5-toothed. Ovary (4 or)5-carpellate; styles united into a column. Fruit (immature) globose, ca. 3 mm in diam., ferrugineous pubescent; styles persistent, ca. 1.5 mm. Fl. Oct–Nov.


Shrubs, to ca. 5 m tall, andromonoecious. Petiole 9–20 cm; petiolules 0.5–4 cm; leaflets 6–10, linear-oblong to slightly oblanceolate, 3–11 × 1–2 cm, leathery, both surfaces glabrous, adaxially minutely white pubescent, secondary veins 10–14 pairs, obscure abaxially, slightly impressed adaxially in dry material, tertiary veins inconspicuous, base broadly cuneate to subrounded, margin entire or remotely serrate apically, apex narrowly acute or shortly acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, densely ferrugineous stellate pubescent; pedicels 3–4 mm. Calyx ca. 2 mm, 5-toothed. Ovary (4 or)5-carpellate; styles united into a column. Fruit globose to slightly obovoid, 4.5–5 mm in diam., 5-ribbed when dry; styles persistent, to 2(–2.5) mm. Fl. Aug–Oct, fr. Oct–Dec.

- Dense forests; 1000–1800 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hunan, Jiangxi, Yunnan, Zhejiang.


Trees, to ca. 10 m tall, andromonoecious. Petiole (3–)10–17 cm; petiolules 0.6–1.8 cm; leaflets (3 or 5 or)7 or 9, narrowly obovate, (7–)9–17 × 3–5.5 cm, leathery, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins 6–10 pairs, tertiary veins visible on both surfaces, raised abaxially, distinctly impressed adaxially in dry material, base narrowly acute-cuneate, margin entire or with few widely spaced teeth apically, minutely revolute, apex acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, densely light brown stellate pubescent; primary axis to 25–40 cm, secondary axes to 18 cm, shorter apically, with a terminal umbel of bisexual flowers and several lateral umbels of male flowers; pedicels 7–16 mm (those of male flowers ca. 5 mm). Calyx a minute rim, entire. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles united into a column. Fruit globose to slightly obovoid, 4.5–5 mm in diam., strongly 5-ribbed when dry, sparsely stellate, densely so just below calyx; styles persistent, 0.7–2.5 mm. Fl. Sep–Oct, fr. Sep–Nov.

Evergreen broad-leaved forests; 2500–3200 m. SE Xizang, NW Yunnan [N Myanmar].


Trees, to ca. 5 m tall, hermaphroditic. Petiole ca. 18 cm; petiolules 0.4–2 cm; leaflets 5–7, oblong or obovate-oblong, 4–10 × 2–5 cm, leathery, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins 12–16 pairs, conspicuous, tertiary veins slightly impressed adaxially in dry material, base broadly cuneate to rounded, margin entire or remotely serrate apically, apex abruptly acute. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, yellow-brown pubescent, then glabrescent; primary axis ca. 25 cm, secondary axes to ca. 10 cm; pedicels 2–5 mm. Ovary 4- or 5-carpellate; styles united into a column. Fruit (immature) globose, ca. 7 mm in diam.; styles persistent, ca. 2 mm. Fl. May.

- Open slopes. W Guangxi (Napo).


樟叶鹅掌柴 zhang ye e zhang chai

Schefflera cinnamomifoliolata C. B. Shang.

Trees, to ca. 8 m tall, andromonoecious. Petiole 3–10 cm, slender; leaflets (3–)5(–7), elliptic, rarely obovate-elliptic, 4–10 × 1.5–4 cm, leathery, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins 5–8 pairs, tertiary veins weakly impressed adaxially in dry material, base attenuate to cuneate or slightly rounded, margin entire, minutely revolute, rarely serrulate apically, apex acute to acuminate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, glabrous; primary axis to 17 cm, secondary axes 2–12 cm, tertiary axes 1.5–5 cm, with a terminal umbel of hermaphroditic flowers and usually several lateral umbels of male flowers (caducous). Calyx glabrous. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles connate into a conic column; stigmas minutely capitulate. Fruit subglobose to ellipsoid, 3–5 mm in diam., 5-ribbed when dry; styles persistent, 2–3 mm. Fl. Aug–Sep, fr. Oct–Jan.

Rocky mountain slopes and hill tops; 600–800 m. SW Guangxi (Jingxi, Longzhou, Napo) [Vietnam].


高鹅掌柴 gao e zhang chai


Trees, to ca. 13 m tall, andromonoecious. Petiole to 35 cm; petiolules 1.5–5 cm; leaflets 4–7, oblong-lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, 10–23 × 4–6.5 cm, papery, both surfaces glabrous or abaxially sparsely stellate pubescent on midvein, secondary veins 8–15 pairs, conspicuous abaxially, base obtuse, margin entire, slightly revolute, apex acuminate, often falcate. Inflorescence a terminal panicle of umbels, sparsely stellate pubescent, nearly glabrescent; primary axis to 35 cm, secondary axes to 17 cm, with a terminal umbel of bisexual flowers and usually 1–4 lateral umbels of male flowers; pedicels 8–14 mm. Calyx glabrous. Ovary 5-carpellate; styles connate into a conic column; stigmas 5, distinct, capitulate. Fruit subglobose to ellipsoid, 3–5 mm in diam., 5-ribbed when dry; styles persistent, 2–3 mm. Fl. Aug–Sep, fr. Oct–Jan.

- Stream banks in forests. Guandong (Yangchun).


谅山鹅掌柴 liang shan e zhang chai

Schefflera lociana var. megaphylla C. B. Shang.

Trees, to 4 m tall, palmlike in habit, rarely branched, hermaphroditic. Petiole 24–65 cm, 7–10 mm in diam. at base; ligule prominent, 1.5–2.5 cm; petiolules 2–5 cm; leaflets 8–
10(–12), oblong-elliptic or obovate-oblong, 14–34 × 4.5–9 cm, leathery, abaxially glabrous or sparsely stellate pubescent on veins, secondary veins 14–22 pairs, adaxially impressed to weakly raised in dry material, base rounded to subcordate, margin entire, revolute, apex abruptly acute or rounded. Inflorescence a pseudo-lateral panicle of umbels, borne below leaves; primary axis 1–1.5 cm, secondary axes 5–7 cm; umbels arranged in racemes, 1.5–2 cm in diam. Calyx gray white pubescent, entire. Ovary 6-carpellate; styles united into a column. Fruit ovoid, 5–6 × 3–4 mm; styles persistent, ca. 2 mm; pedicels 3–4 mm, brown pubescent. Fl. Aug–Sep.

Dense forests on rocky mountain slopes. SW Guangxi (Longzhou) [N Vietnam].

This species is used as an ornamental.


多核鹅掌柴 duo he e zhang chai


Shrubs or small trees, to 10 m tall, hermaphroditic. Petiole 19–30 cm, 2–4 mm in diam. at base; ligule 2–5 mm; petiolules 1–6 cm; leaflets 5–7(–9), oblong or oblong-elliptic, 10–22 × 4.5–11 cm, papery, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins 8–11 pairs, slightly raised abaxially, tertiary veins inconspicuous, base obtuse to rounded, margin entire, apex acute to shortly acuminate. Inflorescence a pseudo-lateral panicle of umbels, borne below leaves, with brown bark; primary axis to 15 cm, secondary axes to 12 cm; pedicels 1–3 mm. Calyx ca. 3 mm, margin slightly sinuous. Ovary 7–11(–13)-carpellate; styles united into a column, ca. 1.5 mm. Fruit globose, 4–5 mm in diam., 7–11(–13)-ribbed when dry; styles persistent; pedicels 3–8 mm, stout. Fl. Sep–Oct, fr. Nov–Dec, Mar.

Disturbed lands, forests in wet valleys; 800–1300 m. W Guangxi (Jingxi), S Yunnan [Vietnam].