

6. GELSEMIUM Jussieu, Gen. Pl. 150. 1789.

钩吻属 *gou wen shu*

Shrubs or straggling to twining climbers. Leaves opposite, rarely verticillate; stipules reduced to an interpetiolar line; leaf blade margin entire. Inflorescences axillary and terminal, many-flowered thyrses, few-flowered fascicles, or 1-flowered. Flowers 5-merous. Sepals imbricate. Corolla funnellform; lobes imbricate. Stamens inserted at base to middle of corolla tube; filaments strap-shaped to filiform; anthers narrowly ovate to narrowly oblong, included to exserted, 2-locular, base sagittate. Ovary 2-locular; ovules several per locule. Style filiform; stigma 4-cleft. Capsule ovoid to narrowly ellipsoid, septicidal, 4-valvate, several seeded. Seeds winged.

Three species: two in North America, one in E and SE Asia; one species in China.

1. *Gelsemium elegans* (Gardner & Champion) Bentham, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 1: 90. 1857.

钩吻 *gou wen*

Medicia elegans Gardner & Champion, Hooker's J. Bot. Kew Gard. Misc. 1: 325. 1849.

Climbers twining, to 12 m. Petiole 6–12 mm; leaf blade ovate to very narrowly ovate, 5–12 × 2–6 cm, membranous to papery, base broadly cuneate to subrounded, apex acuminate; lateral veins 5–7 per side. Thyrses with main nodes each having 2 lateral cymes and a continuing main axis; bracts acute triangular to subulate, to 4 mm, ciliate. Pedicel 3–8 mm. Corolla yellow to orange, 1.2–1.9 cm; tube 7–10 mm, outside brownish, mouth with reddish spots; lobes ovate, 5–9 mm, apex blunt to acute. Stamens inserted at middle of corolla tube; filaments 3.5–4 mm; anthers narrowly ovate, 1.5–2 mm, exserted. Ovary narrowly ovoid, 2–2.5 mm. Style 0.8–1.2 cm; stigma pubescent. Capsule ellipsoid to ovoid, 1–1.4 cm × 6–8 mm, smooth, glabrous. Seeds elliptic to reniform, ca. 5.5 mm in diam., central part hairy, winged all around. Fl. May–Nov.

Scrubby forests, thickets; 200–2000 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hunan, Jiangxi, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, N Myanmar, N Thailand, Vietnam].

Poisonous.

