

## 2. ACOKANTHERA G. Don, Gen. Hist. 4: 485. 1838.

长药花属 chang yao hua shu

Shrubs or small trees, latex white. Leaves opposite. Corymbs short pedunculate or sessile, axillary, often fascicled. Flowers subsessile, usually sweet scented. Calyx small, without glands inside. Corolla white or pink tinged, salverform, tube slightly widened near mouth; lobes short, overlapping to left; corona absent. Stamens inserted in widened part of corolla tube; anthers ovate to oblong, connective produced into a short, minutely pilose point, shortly 2-lobed at base; disc absent. Ovary 1, 2-loculed; ovules 1 per locule. Style filiform; pistil head cylindric or short conical, base with a ring of papillae, apex minutely 2-lobed. Berry globose or elliptic. Seeds 1 or 2, not comose; endosperm bony; cotyledons broadly ovate or subcordate, radicle superior.

Five species: S and tropical E Africa, Arabia; one species in China.

**1. *Acokanthera oppositifolia*** (Lamarck) Codd, *Bothalia* 7: 448. 1961.

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*Cestrum oppositifolium* Lamarck, *Tabl. Encycl.* 2: 5, t. 112, fig. 2. 1794.

Shrubs to 5 m tall. Branchlets compressed when young, terete with age. Petiole 2–6 mm; leaf blade mostly obovate, occasionally elliptic, 4–10 × 2–7 cm, lateral veins 6–10 pairs. Inflorescences sessile or subsessile, clustered, glabrous or puberulent, usually many flowered; bracts brown or distal ones pinkish, ovate. Sepals ovate to very narrowly ovate. Corolla white to pink, tube 0.8–1.3 cm, glabrous or puberulent outside, hairy inside; lobes broadly ovate, 2–4.5 mm. Berry purplish black, globose, 2.5–3 cm in diam. Seeds semiglobose or semi-ellipsoid, 0.8–1.2 cm.  $2n = 22$ .

Beijing [native of S Africa].

Cultivated for medicine.

