

**43. BRACHYSTELMA** R. Brown, Bot. Mag. tab. 2343. 1822, nom. cons.

润肺草属 run fei cao shu

Herbs erect, perennial. Rootstock usually a subglobose tuber [sometimes a cluster of swollen roots]. Leaves opposite, sessile or subsessile. Inflorescences umbel-like or racemelike. Pedicel slender, short. Calyx with 5 basal glands. Corolla campanulate to subrotate; lobes erect or spreading, valvate. Corona double, attached to staminal column, outer series of 5 deeply 2-cleft lobes exceeding staminal column, inner series of 5 oblong lobes incumbent over stigma head, not or hardly exceeding staminal column. Filaments connate into a short tube; anthers without membranous apex; pollinia 2 per pollinarium, erect or ascending, with a translucent margin. Stigma head depressed. Follicles often linear, usually paired. Seeds comose.

About 60 species: mostly in Africa, also in Oceania and SE Asia; two species in China.

- 1a. Plants to 15 cm tall; internodes short; leaves  $2-4 \times 0.2-0.3$  cm; inflorescences racemelike, many flowered ..... 1. *B. edule*  
1b. Plants to 50 cm tall; internodes long; leaves  $5-6.5 \times$  ca. 1.1 cm; inflorescences umbel-like, few flowered ..... 2. *B. kerrii*

**1. *Brachystelma edule*** Collett & Hemsley, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 28: 89. 1890.

润肺草 run fei cao

Herbs 5–15 cm tall. Root tuber globose or ovoid, 1.5–2 cm in diam. Stems erect, simple, internodes short, puberulent to glabrous. Leaves opposite, rarely alternate at base of stem, sessile; leaf blade linear-lanceolate,  $2-4$  cm  $\times$   $2-3$  mm, glabrous; lateral veins 5–7 pairs, obscure. Racemes terminal. Pedicel slender, short. Sepals ovate-lanceolate, pubescent. Corolla subrotate, glabrous outside, pubescent inside; lobes lanceolate. Corona lobes reflexed. Pollinia ovoid, ascending. Follicles ca.  $9$  cm  $\times$   $4$  mm, glabrous. Fl. Oct.

Forests; 300–1200 m. Guangxi, Yunnan [Myanmar].

The tubers are edible, and the plant is used for the treatment of coughs and reducing of phlegm.

**2. *Brachystelma kerrii*** Craib, Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew 1911: 420. 1911.

长节润肺草 chang jie run fei cao

Herbs to 50 cm tall. Root tuber globose, to 2 cm in diam. Stems erect, simple, internodes long, glabrous. Leaves opposite, sessile; leaf blade linear,  $5-6.5 \times$  ca. 1.1 cm, glabrous; midvein concave adaxially, convex abaxially, lateral veins obsolete. Inflorescences terminal, umbellate, few flowered; peduncle ca. 1 cm. Pedicel 7–8 mm, puberulent. Sepals lanceolate, ca. 1.5 mm, puberulent to glabrous. Corolla subrotate; tube short; lobes triangular-ovate, ca.  $5 \times 1.5$  mm, pilose. Corona lobes 3-cleft, reflexed. Pollinia ovoid, erect.

Lower forests. S Guangxi [Thailand, Vietnam].

