
猪菜藤属 zhu cai teng shu

Herbs twining or prostrate. Leaves petiolate, base usually cordate, margin entire, angular, or lobed. Inflorescences axillary, 1- to few-flowered cymes; bracts 2, leaflike, borne well below calyx, persistent. Sepals 5, apex acute; outer 3 ovate, slightly enlarged in fruit; inner 2 much smaller. Corolla campanulate or funnelform; limb shallowly 5-lobed. Stamens included; filaments dilated basally, adnate to corolla tube, free distally, filiform; pollen not spiny. Disc ringlike. Pistil included; ovary 1-loculed or imperfectly 2-loculed apically, 4-ovuled. Style 1, filiform; stigmas 2, ovate-oblong, complanate. Capsule globose, 4-valved, pilose. Seeds 4 or fewer.

One species: tropical regions in Africa and Asia, naturalized in Jamaica.


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Herbs perennial. Stems herbaceous; axial parts ± densely pubescent, twining or prostrate, 1–2 m, occasionally rooting at nodes. Petiole 1–6 cm; leaf blade ovate, 3–10 × 3–8 cm, appressed pilose or subglabrous, sometimes yellow glandular dotted, margin ciliate, base cordate, hastate, or truncate, margin entire or 3-lobed, apex acuminate, acute, or mucronate. Inflorescences often 1-flowered; peduncle 1.5–10 cm; bracts oblong-lanceolate, 0.7–1.5 cm, pubescent, acuminate. Pedicel 2–4 mm. Sepals unequal, pubescent abaxially; outer 3 broadly ovate, 0.9–1.5 cm × 6–9 mm, to 1.7 cm in fruit; inner 2 oblong-lanceolate, smaller. Corolla pale yellow or whitish, with a purple center, 2–2.5 cm, midpetaline bands densely pilose. Stamens ca. 9 mm; filaments minutely papillate basally; anthers ovoid-deltoid. Ovary villous. Capsule enclosed by persistent calyx, depressed globose, 8–10 mm in diam., pilose. Seeds dull black, ovoid-trigonal, 4–6 mm, glabrous except for pubescent hilum. Fl. and fr. year round. 2n = 30.

Sunny places in thickets, roadides, forest clearings, river banks, plantations, often on sandy soil; 0–600 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Taiwan, Yunnan [Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; Africa, Asia, North America (naturalized in Jamaica), Pacific Islands].