

37. MERRILLANTHUS Chun & Tsiang, Sunyatsenia 6: 105. 1941.

驼峰藤属 tuo feng teng shu

Lianas. Leaves opposite, long petiolate. Cymes irregularly branched with racemelike cymules, long pedunculate. Calyx glands 5. Corolla shallowly bowl-shaped, divided halfway; lobes overlapping to right. Corona lobes 5, inserted on gynostegium, erect, fleshy, oval, turgid, shorter than anthers. Anther appendages membranous, ovate, overlying stigma head; pollinia 2 per pollinarium, oblong, horizontal, caudicles obliquely ascending. Stigma head discoid. Follicles broadly fusiform, mesocarp fibrous. Seeds ovate.

One species: Cambodia, China.

Most material available has poorly preserved flowers which perhaps explains the original description of the pollinia as pendulous. Reexamination of paratype material with quite well-dried flowers has shown that they are horizontal. There is little, apart from fruit morphology, to distinguish *Merrillanthus* from *Tylophora*, especially *T. augustiniana*, which differs only by the laxer inflorescences and much smaller flowers (its fruits are not known).

1. Merrillanthus hainanensis Chun & Tsiang, Sunyatsenia 6: 107. 1941.

驼峰藤 tuo feng teng

Lianas to 3 m, many branched, glabrous except for sparsely pubescent abaxial leaf veins, peduncles, pedicels, and exterior of calyx. Petiole 1.5–5 cm; leaf blade ovate, 5–15 × 2.5–8 cm, membranous, base rounded or cordate, apex acuminate or acute; lateral veins 6 or 7 pairs. Cymes patent, at least as long as leaves, many flowered. Peduncle 2–5 cm; secondary peduncles 3–10 cm; cymule rachis 0.5–1.5 cm. Pedicel 0.5–1.5 cm. Sepals ovate, ca. 2 × 1.5 mm, ciliate. Corolla yellow, veined; tube ca. 3 mm, minutely papillate; lobes ca. 5 × 4 mm, broadly ovate. Follicles 9–12 × 3.5–4 cm. Seeds ovate or suborbicular, ca. 1.3 × 1 cm; coma ca. 3.5 cm.

Forest valleys; low to medium altitudes. Guangdong, Hainan [Cambodia].

