

12. SARCOSTEMMA R. Brown, Prodr. 463. 1810.

肉珊瑚属 rou shan hu shu

Lianas, trailing or twining, rarely \pm erect, succulent, base woody. Leaves reduced to minute scales, soon lost. Cymes umbel-like, sessile, terminal or extra-axillary. Calyx with or without 5 basal glands. Corolla rotate or nearly so, deeply lobed; lobes overlapping to right. Corona double: outer corona inserted at junction of corolla tube and gynostegium, ringlike or cupular, membranous, 5-angled, truncate or shallowly lobed; inner corona lobes 5, inserted at base of gynostegium, fleshy, basally dilated, 2-keeled inside. Anther appendages membranous; pollinia 2 per pollinarium, waxy, pendulous, caudicle slender. Stigma head short conical or oblong-fusiform. Follicles thick, smooth.

At least ten species: Africa, tropical Asia, Australia; one species in China.

1. *Sarcostemma acidum* (Roxburgh) Voigt, Hort. Suburb. Calcutt. 542. 1845.

肉珊瑚 rou shan hu

Asclepias acida Roxburgh, Fl. Ind. ed. 1832, 2: 31. 1832;
Sarcostemma brevistigma Wight & Arnott.

Stems to 2 m, twining, green or gray, glabrous. Cymes terminal or extra-axillary, 6–15-flowered, ca. 1 \times 2 cm. Pedicel 3–5 mm, puberulent. Sepals ovate, ca. 1 mm, puberulent, margin translucent. Corolla white or yellowish; lobes ovate-oblong or oblong-lanceolate, ca. 3 \times 1 mm, glabrous. Outer corona shallowly cupular, inner lobes obtuse, slightly shorter than or as long as anthers. Pollinia caudicles \pm horizontal, retinaculum subelliptic. Stigma head shorter than anther appendages. Follicles lanceolate in outline, terete, ca. 15 \times 1 cm. Seeds broadly ovate, ca. 3 \times 2 mm; coma ca. 2 cm. Fl. Mar–Nov. $2n = 22$.

Seashore thickets. S Guangdong, Hainan [India, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam].

All parts are used as medicine to induce lactation.

