

31. TELOSMA Coville, Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb. 9: 384. 1905.

夜来香属 ye lai xiang shu

Lianas. Leaves opposite, long petiolate. Cymes extra-axillary, pendulous, rachis laxly branched. Calyx with 5 glands at base. Corolla tube cylindric, with enlarged base, throat sometimes constricted; lobes patent, twisted to right. Corona lobes 5, adnate to base of staminal tube, margin and apex free, erect, oblong, obtuse, with ligulate inner lobes adnate to near apex, or corona lobes notched. Filaments connate into a tube; membranous anther appendages incurved; pollinia 2 per pollinarium, oblong, erect. Stigma head convex or conical. Follicles thick, acuminate, smooth. Seeds comose.

About ten species: Asia, tropical Africa, Oceania; three species in China.

- 1a. Leaf blade cuneate to shallowly cordate at base 3. *T. procumbens*
- 1b. Leaf blade deeply cordate at base.
 - 2a. Corolla lobes oblong; flowers very fragrant 1. *T. cordata*
 - 2b. Corolla lobes lanceolate; flowers odorless or nearly so 2. *T. pallida*

1. *Telosma cordata* (N. L. Burman) Merrill, Philipp. J. Sci. 19: 372. 1921.

夜来香 ye lai xiang

Asclepias cordata N. L. Burman, Fl. Indica 72, fig. 2. 1768; *Cynanchum odoratissimum* Loureiro; *Oxystelma ovatum* P. T. Li & S. Z. Huang; *Pergularia minor* Andrews; *P. odoratissima* (Loureiro) Smith; *Telosma minor* (Andrews) Craib; *T. odoratissima* (Loureiro) Coville.

Stems 1–10 m, yellowish green, pubescent when new, those of previous year pale gray, glabrescent, usually sparsely lenticellate. Petiole 1.5–5 cm; leaf blade ovate, 4–12 × 3–10 cm, base deeply cordate with narrow sinus, apex acuminate; basal veins 3, lateral veins to 6 pairs. Cymes umbel-like, 15–30-flowered; peduncle 0.5–1.5 cm, puberulent. Sepals oblong-lanceolate, puberulent. Corolla yellowish green; tube 6–10 × 4–6 mm, puberulent outside, pilose or glabrous with pilose throat inside; lobes oblong, 6–12 × 3–6 mm, ciliate. Corona lobes slightly fleshy, basal part ovate, apex acuminate, often notched to deeply lobed, internal appendage often longer than lobe proper. Pollinia oblong or reniform. Stigma head capitate. Follicles lanceolate in outline, 7–13 × 2–3.5 cm, glabrous, somewhat obtusely 4-angled. Seeds broadly ovate, ca. 1 × 1 cm, flat, apex truncate, margin membranous; coma 3–4 cm. Fl. May-Oct, fr. Oct-Dec. $2n = 22$.

Open woods, bushland. Guangdong, Guangxi; cultivated elsewhere in S China [India, Kashmir, Myanmar, Pakistan, Vietnam; America, Europe].

The flowers are very fragrant and yield perfumed oil. They are used in cooking and medicinally to treat conjunctivitis.

Material from outside China varies greatly in corolla size and shape and, to a lesser extent, in leaf shape. It is not clear whether a species complex or a single polymorphic species, possibly including the two following species, is involved.

cm. Sepals oblong-elliptic or ovate, ca. 3.5 × 2 mm, puberulent. Corolla greenish or greenish yellow, odorless, ca. 1.5 cm; tube up to as long as lobes, throat villous, interior with 5 narrow lines of hairs; lobes oblong, ca. 8 × 2.5 mm, rounded

2. *Telosma pallida* (Roxburgh) Craib, Bull. Misc. Inform. Kew 1911: 418. 1911.

台湾夜来香 tai wan ye lai xiang

Asclepias pallida Roxburgh, Fl. Ind. 2: 49. 1824; *Pergularia pallida* (Roxburgh) Wight & Arnott.

Stems slender, to 3 m, puberulent. Petiole 2.5–3.5 cm; leaf blade ovate-cordate, 6–8 × 3–5 cm, membranous, glabrous, base deeply cordate, apex acuminate; basal veins 5, lateral veins 4 or 5 pairs. Cymes extra-axillary, umbel-like; peduncle 0.7–1.5 cm. Pedicel 5–12 mm. Flowers odorless or nearly so. Sepals ovate-lanceolate, ciliate. Corolla yellow-white; tube nearly as long as or shorter than lobes, throat villous; lobes lanceolate, glabrous. Corona lobes fleshy, apex acuminate, longer than anther appendages; pollinia oblong, erect. Stigma head conical, apex retuse. Follicles cylindrical-lanceolate, 5.5–10 cm. Seeds ovate, 5–8 mm; coma ca. 2.5 cm. Fl. Aug, fr. Oct-Dec. $2n = 22$.

Open woods. Taiwan [India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam].

Telosma cordata is possibly a cultigen of *T. pallida* selected for fragrant flowers.

3. *Telosma procumbens* (Blanco) Merrill, Philipp. J. Sci., C. 7: 243. 1912.

卧径夜来香 wo jing ye lai xiang

Pergularia procumbens Blanco, Fl. Filip. 201. 1837; *P. filipes* Schlechter; *Telosma cathayensis* Merrill.

Stems to 4 m, glabrous, young branchlets puberulent. Petiole 1.5–3.5 cm; leaf blade ovate, oblong or oblong-elliptic, 6–13 × 3–8 cm, membranous, glabrous to puberulent along veins, base broadly cuneate to subcordate, apex acute to acuminate; lateral veins ca. 6 pairs. Cymes extra-axillary, umbel-like, many flowered; peduncle 1–3 cm. Pedicel 1–1.5

or subtruncate at apex, glabrous outside, puberulent inside, ciliate. Corona lobes acuminate, as high as or higher than anther appendages, abaxially convex. Pollinia oblong, erect. Stigma head short conical. Follicles lanceolate, ca. 10 × 2 cm.

Fl. May, fr. Jul-Sep.

Open woods, bushland, along rivers; 300–800 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Yunnan [Philippines, Vietnam].

