

10. WITHANIA Pauquy, Belladone 14. 1825.

睡茄属 shui qie shu

Shrubs or perennial herbs, pubescent with dendritic or perhaps simple hairs. Stems erect, much branched. Leaves solitary or paired, simple, petiolate; leaf blade entire, glabrous or pubescent, often with dendritic hairs. Inflorescences solitary or in congested axillary clusters. Pedicel short. Calyx campanulate, dentate; corolla narrowly campanulate, parted to halfway. Stamens equal, inserted near base of corolla tube; filaments slightly compressed; anthers sometimes connivent. Disc evident, ringlike, surrounding ovary base. Ovary 2-locular; ovules numerous. Style slender. Fruiting calyx becoming enlarged, enveloping berry, closed at apex. Fruit a globose shiny berry. Seeds compressed reniform; embryo coiled, subperipheral.

About six species: N Africa, W Asia, and S Europe; one species adventive in China.

1. *Withania somnifera* (Linnaeus) Dunal in A. de Candolle, Prodr. 13(1): 453. 1852.

睡茄 shui qie

Physalis somnifera Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 182. 1753;
Withania kansuensis Kuang & A. M. Lu.

Herbs perennial, 30–150 cm tall, pubescent with dendritic hairs. Stems woody proximally, erect or reclining, branched, tomentose. Petiole 1–2 cm; leaf blade ovate, obovate, or oblong, 2.5–12×2–7 cm, glabrescent adaxially except along midvein, pubescent abaxially, base cuneate, apex acute. Inflorescences subsessile clusters of 4–6 flowers; peduncle obsolete. Pedicel ca. 5 mm. Calyx campanulate, 3–5 mm, tomentose; lobes deltate, 1–2 mm. Corolla yellowish green, narrowly campanulate, 5–8 mm, tomentose at throat; lobes ovate, spreading or recurving, 2–2.5 mm. Filaments ca. 1.8 mm; anthers yellow, ovoid, ca. 1 mm, minutely apiculate. Style exerted. Fruiting calyx becoming brown and translucent, globose or ovoid, truncate at base, 1–2.2 cm; lobes short, somewhat urceolate. Berry shiny, scarlet, globose, 5–8 mm. Seeds drying pale brown, reniformdiscoid, 2–2.5×2 mm. Fl. and fr. Oct.

Gansu, Yunnan [Afghanistan, India, Pakistan; SW Asia, Europe].

Withania kansuensis, which is known only from the type that cannot be located, was distinguished by a series of characters that are also found in *W. somnifera*, and only the presence of simple hairs seems distinctive.

