

19. COPTOSAPelta Korthals, Ned. Kruidk. Arch. 2(2): 112. 1851.

流苏子属 liu su zi shu

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Lianas or scandent shrubs, unarmed. Raphides absent. Leaves opposite, sometimes with domatia; stipules caducous, interpetiolar, triangular. Inflorescences axillary [to terminal], 1-flowered [or cymose and several to many flowered], pedunculate, bracteate. Flowers sessile, pedunculate, or pedicellate, bisexual, monomorphic. Calyx limb 5-lobed. Corolla pale yellow or white becoming yellowed with age, salverform, variously glabrous or pubescent inside; lobes 5, convolute to right in bud. Stamens 5, inserted in corolla throat, exerted; filaments short; anthers basifixed. Ovary 2-celled, ovules numerous in each cell on axile placentas; stigma fusiform, exerted. Fruit capsular, subglobose, loculicidally dehiscent with valves sometimes secondarily separating along septum, woody, with calyx limb persistent; seeds several, medium-sized to large, flattened, suborbicular, bordered by a regularly erose wing; endosperm fleshy; embryo straight; cotyledons short; radicle terete, basiscopic.

Sixteen species: China, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam; one species in China.

The 3–5-porate pollen of *Coptosapelta* was studied by Verellen et al. (J. Pl. Res. 117: 57–68. 2003), who also noted that the genus has secondary pollen presentation and accumulates aluminum in the leaves. Based on molecular and some morphological characters, *Coptosapelta* is now considered rather isolated and one of the most basal lineages in Rubiaceae (Bremer et al., Syst. Biol. 48: 413–435. 1999; Bremer & Manen, Pl. Syst. Evol. 225: 43–72. 2000), with its closest relative probably being *Acranthera* and these two genera most closely related to *Luculia* (Rydin et al., Pl. Syst. Evol. 278: 101–123. 2009).

1. *Coptosapelta diffusa* (Champion ex Benth) Steenis, Amer. J. Bot. 56: 806. 1969.

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Thyranospermum diffusum Champion ex Benth, Hooker's J. Bot. Kew Gard. Misc. 4: 168. 1852.

Lianas or scandent shrubs, 2–5 m or taller, often much branched; branches densely hirtellous or strigillose to strigose often becoming glabrescent with age. Petiole 2–5 mm, hirsute to strigose or rarely glabrous; leaf blade drying papery to leathery and often yellowish green, ovate or ovate-oblong to lanceolate, 2–9.5 × 0.8–3.5 cm, adaxially rather shiny and glabrous except strigose to hirsute along costa, abaxially glabrous except strigose to hirsute on principal veins, base rounded to obtuse, margins sometimes sparsely ciliate and/or thinly revolute, apex acute or acuminate; secondary veins 4 or 5 pairs; stipules lanceolate to narrowly triangular, 2–7 mm, acute. Inflorescences

with peduncles slender, 3–20 mm, glabrous or usually strigose to hirtellous; bracts 1 or 2 on upper part of peduncle, 0.5–1 mm. Calyx glabrous to strigillose; ovary portion subglobose, 1–2 mm; limb deeply lobed; lobes ovate-triangular, 0.8–1 mm. Corolla outside glabrous to strigillose or sericeous, inside hirtellous in upper part of tube and usually onto basal half of lobes; tube cylindrical to somewhat funnelliform, 8–15 mm; lobes elliptic-oblong to spatulate, 4–6 mm, obtuse to rounded. Anthers 3.5–4 mm. Stigma 2.5–3 mm. Capsule brownish yellow, compressed globose or compressed ellipsoid, weakly didymous, 4–6 × 5–8 mm; seeds 1.5–2 mm in diam. Fl. May–Jul, fr. Jun–Dec.

Thickets or forests on mountains or hills; 100–1500 m. Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Japan (Ryukyu Islands)].

This is a commonly collected species in China.

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