

24. **DUNNIA** Tutchet, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 37: 69. 1905.

绣球茜属 *xiu qiu qian shu*

Chen Tao (陈涛); Charlotte M. Taylor

Shrubs, unarmed; branches sometimes rather stout. Raphides present. Leaves opposite, without domatia; stipules persistent, interpetiolar, generally triangular, acute to bifid. Inflorescences terminal, corymbose-cymose, several to many flowered, pedunculate, with peduncles usually elongated and flexuous, bracteate, with some bracteoles on most inflorescences fused to base of hypanthium, expanded, and petaloid thus appearing to be a calycophyll. Flowers subsessile to shortly pedicellate, bisexual, distylous. Calyx limb 4- or 5-denticulate, sometimes 1 or a few flowers with 1 petaloid calycophyll. Corolla yellow, salverform or funnellform, villosulous inside; lobes 4 or 5, valvate in bud. Stamens 4 or 5, inserted in upper part of corolla tube, included or partially exserted; filaments short; anthers apparently dorsifixed. Ovary 2-celled, ovules numerous, position of placentas unknown; stigma 2-lobed, included. Fruit capsular, subglobose to obovoid, apically prolonged into a short beak, stiffly cartilaginous or leathery, septically dehiscent into 2 valves with each valve sometimes later splitting into 2 parts, with calyx limb, petaloid bracts, and calycophylls persistent; seeds small, flattened, with marginal wing membranous, irregular or lacerate; endosperm abundant; embryo minute.

Two species: China, India; one species (endemic) in China.

The stipitate petaloid structures on the inflorescence are similar to the petaloid calycophylls of other Rubiaceae genera; however, these appear to comprise two different morphological structures. Most of these structures appear to be inserted at the base of the ovary and thus can be considered bracts, but some appear to be enlarged calyx lobes inserted above the ovary.

*Dunnia* was revised by Ridsdale (*Blumea* 24: 367–368. 1979).

1. **Dunnia sinensis** Tutchet, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 37: 70. 1905.

绣球茜草 *xiu qiu qian cao*

Shrubs, 0.3–2.5 m tall; branches rather stout, subterete to angled, puberulent to pilosulous sometimes becoming glabrescent with age. Petiole 0.7–2.5 cm, pilosulous or puberulent; leaf blade drying papery to leathery, narrowly lanceolate, narrowly elliptic, or oblanceolate, 7–23 × 1–6 cm, both surfaces puberulent to strigillose with pubescence denser on principal veins, sometimes becoming glabrescent with age, abaxially epidermis often with apparently enlarged cells, base acute to cuneate, margins often thinly revolute, apex acuminate, acute, or rarely obtuse; secondary veins 11–17 pairs, extending to very close to margins, with intersecondary veins often very well developed; stipules ovate or triangular, 6–8 × 8–10 mm, strigillose to puberulent, acute or often bifid for up to 1/3. Inflorescences 8–12 × 3–5 cm, moderately to densely strigillose or pilosulous; peduncle 2–6 cm; branched portion 2–4 × 3–5 cm; bracts trian-

gular, 1–1.5 mm, petaloid bracts similar to calycophylls; pedicels to 3 mm. Calyx sparsely to densely puberulent or strigillose; ovary portion obconic, 1–1.5 mm; limb deeply lobed; lobes deltoid, 0.3–0.5 mm; petaloid calycophyll white to cream, elliptic-oblong to lanceolate, 2–5.5 × 1–2.3 cm, puberulent to glabrescent, obtuse to rounded, with 3 longitudinal veins and well-developed reticulate venation, with stipe 0.8–1.5 cm. Corolla outside sparsely to densely pilosulous or puberulent; tube 8–10 mm; lobes triangular-ovate, ca. 2 mm, acute to obtuse. Capsule 3–5 mm in diam. including beak ca. 1 mm, smooth, pilosulous to glabrescent; seeds 0.6–1 mm in diam. Fl. and fr. Apr–Nov.

- Thickets or forests in ravines; 200–900 m. Guangdong.

In conservation status, this species has been considered seriously threatened due primarily to habitat destruction (Ge et al., *Conservation Genet.* 3: 351–362. 2002; Chiang et al., *Molec. Biol. Evol.* 19: 1367–1375. 2002).

Fl. China 19: 100–101. 2011.