
桂海木属  gui hai mu shu

Chen Tao (陈涛); Charlotte M. Taylor

Subshrubs, unarmed; roots woody and stout. Raphides presumably absent. Leaves opposite, often congested or apparently fascicled at stem apices, without domatia; stipules caducous, apparently interpetiolar, triangular. Inflorescences terminal or pseudoaxillary, congested-cymose or subcapitate, several flowered, sessile to shortly pedunculate, bracteate with bracts linear. Flowers shortly pedicellate or sessile, presumably bisexual, with biology unknown. Calyx limb deeply 5-lobed. Corolla pink, salverform with tube slender and abruptly expanded in throat, inside pubescent; lobes 5, convolute in bud. Stamens 5, inserted in corolla throat, partially exserted; filaments short to reduced. Ovary 2-celled, ovules numerous in each cell on fleshy, peltate, axile placentas; stigma 2-lobed with lobes capitate, exserted. Fruit purplish red, baccate, fleshy, subglobose, with calyx lobes tardily deciduous; seeds numerous, small, angled, reticulate.

● One species: China.

The relationships of this genus and some of its morphological details are unknown. The presence or absence of raphides has not been explicitly noted; absence is here inferred based on H. S. Lo’s (in FRPS 71(1): ix. 1999) classification of this genus in Rondeletieae, but the one specimen seen has scattered raphidelike structures deep within some intact tissues.


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Plants 3–7 cm tall; stems quadrangular, densely villosulous, becoming glabrescent. Petiole 5–20 mm, villosulous; leaf blade drying papery and grayish brown, broadly elliptic-oblong to obovate, 4.5–11 × 2.5–7.5 cm, villosulous on both surfaces or glabrescent adaxially, base cuneate to truncate and often shortly decurrent, apex rounded or broadly obtuse and shortly cuspidate; secondary veins 8–12 pairs, slender; stipules 1–2 mm, obtuse and partially reflexed. Inflorescences densely villosulous; bracts 1.5–1.7 mm. Calyx pilosulous, villosulous, or glabrous; hypanthium portion obovoid-ellipsoid, ca. 1.7 mm; lobes linear-lanceolate to narrowly triangular, 1.7–2 mm, acute to acuminate. Corolla pale red, glabrous outside; tube ca. 19 mm, ca. 1 mm in diam. at base, 3–3.5 mm in diam. at throat, sparsely villous inside; lobes elliptic or ovate-elliptic, ca. 3 mm, rounded. Fruit purplish red, 2.5–3 mm in diam.; seeds 0.2–0.3 mm. Fl. Apr, fr. Jul.

● Shady rocks; 100–600 m. Guangxi (Rongshui).