32. GYMNOSTACHYUM Nees in Wallich, Pl. Asiat. Rar. 3: 76, 106. 1832.

Cryptophragmium Nees; Sarcanthera Rafinesque.

Herbs, perennial [or shrubs], with cystoliths. Leaves cauleine or subradical, opposite; leaf blade margin usually entire. Inflorescences axillary or terminal, spikes, racemes, or panicles, often secund; bracts and bracteoles shorter than calyx. Calyx 5-lobed nearly to base; lobes subequal. Corolla tube longer than limb; basal portion narrowly cylindric, ± expanded distally into a throat; limb 2-lipped, lower lip 3-lobed, upper lip emarginate to 2-lobed; lobes ascending coelar in bud. Stamens 2, included in or slightly exerted from corolla tube; anther thecae 2, equal or subequal in size, parallel, one or both mucronate at base; staminodes absent. Ovary with 3 to many ovules per locule; stigma 2-lobed, lobes compressed. Capsule without a stipe, linear, 4-angled, many seeded; retinacula present. Seeds compressed, covered with hygroscopic trichomes.

About 30 species: tropical Asia; three species (two endemic) in China.

1a. Stems very short; leaves in a basal rosette ................................................................. 1. G. subrosulatum
1b. Stems elongate; leaves cauline.

2a. Inflorescences axillary ........................................................................................................ 2. G. listeri
2b. Inflorescences terminal ...................................................................................................... 3. G. sinense


矮裸柱草 ai luo zhu cao

Gymnostachyum kwangsiense H. S. Lo.

Herbs 20–40 cm tall. Stems short, pubescent. Leaves in a basal rosette; petiole 2–9(–14) cm; leaf blade suborbicular to broadly ovate, 5–16 × 3.5–11 cm, papery, abaxially subglabrous but midvein and secondary veins hirsute, adaxially slightly scabrous, secondary veins 7–9 on each side of midvein, base slightly cordate to rounded, margin entire or slightly sinuate, apex rounded to acute. Thyrses 10–35 cm, with 1–4 flowers per cyme; peduncle 8–19 cm; bracts subulate, ca. 2.5 mm, pilose, apex acute; bracteoles similar to bracts. Calyx 2.5–3 mm; lobes subulate, pilose. Corolla ca. 1.5 cm; lower lip patent, 3-lobed, lobes oblong-ovate and ca. 2 × 2 mm. Staminal filaments ca. 2.5 mm, glabrous; anther thecae linear, ca. 3 × 0.5 mm, pubescent. Calyx 0.1–1.1 cm; lobes linear, 8–10 × ca. 0.5 mm, outside pubescent, inside glabrous, margin gland-tipped pilose. Corolla purple, 1.6–2 cm, pubescent; tube basally cylindric and ca. 2.5 cm wide for ca. 8 mm, throat abruptly bending and widening to 5 mm; lower lip 4–5 mm, 3-lobed, lobes oblong and ca. 3 × 1.5 mm; upper lip 3–4 mm, 2-lobed, lobes broadly ovate and ca. 2 × 2 mm. Staminode filaments ca. 4 mm, glabrous; anther thecae oblong, ca. 5 × 1 mm, pilose, spurred at base. Ovary ca. 3 × 1 mm, glabrous; style ca. 1.5 cm, villous. Capsule not seen. Fl. Apr–May.

Limestone hills; 200–600 m. Guangxi, Yunnan [Bangladesh, Vietnam].


华裸柱草 hua luo zhu cao


Herbs to 1 m tall. Stems purplish black, terete, glabrous; young shoots 4-angled, pubescent at nodes. Petiole 2–4 mm; leaf blade ovate to broadly ovate, 1.5–4 × 1–1.8 cm, thickly paper, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins ca. 6 on each side of midvein, base cuneate, margin entire or subentire, apex acute to sometimes caudate. Spikes terminal, few flowered; peduncle ca. 1 cm, subglabrous; bracts linear to linear-lanceolate, 1.5–2 mm; bracteoles similar to bracts. Calyx ca. 7 mm, glabrous; lobes lanceolate-linear, apex acuminate. Corolla white, ca. 1 cm; lower lip ca. 4 mm, 3-lobed, lobes ovate and ca. 0.5 × 0.5 mm; upper lip subtriangular, ca. 3.5 mm, 2-lobed. Staminode filaments ca. 2.5 mm, glabrous; anther thecae linear, ca. 3 mm, spurred at base. Ovary ellipsoid, ca. 3 mm, glabrous, ovules 5 or 6 per locule; style ca. 7 mm. Capsule narrowly cylindric, 1–
1.5 cm, glabrous. Seeds subglobose, ca. 1 × 1 mm, pubescent.
Fl. Aug.

- Limestone hills, Guangxi.