

47. LERCHEA Linnaeus, Mant. Pl. 2: 155, 256. 1771, nom. cons., not *Lerchia* Haller ex Zinn (1757).

多轮草属 duo lun cao shu

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Codaria Linnaeus ex Kuntze.

Subshrubs or perennial herbs, unarmed, sometimes unbranched. Raphides present. Leaves opposite, often grouped at stem apices, perhaps without domatia; stipules caducous or persistent, interpetiolar, triangular or generally ligulate to obovate. Inflorescences terminal or pseudo-axillary, cymose, corymbiform, or racemiform with axes scorpioid, spiciform, or bearing small heads, several to many flowered, pedunculate, bracteate or bracts reduced. Flowers pedicellate to sessile, bisexual, distylous. Calyx limb shallowly to deeply 5-lobed, inside with well-developed colleters. Corolla white or yellowish green, tubular or funnelliform, inside with pubescent ring in throat; lobes 5, often cucullate, valvate in bud. Stamens 5, inserted near or above middle of corolla tube, exserted or included; filaments developed; anthers dorsifixed, sometimes pubescent at one or both ends. Ovary 2-celled, ovules numerous in each locule on peltate axile placentas; stigma 2-lobed, stout, sometimes scabrous, exserted or included. Fruit baccate, fleshy except with bony endocarp, subglobose, with calyx limb persistent; seeds numerous, brown, small, angled.

About ten species: SE Asia; two species (one endemic) in China.

This genus was reviewed in detail in Sumatra and Java by Axelius (Blumea 32: 91–114. 1987). She noted among other observations that the plants are quite infrequently encountered in the field. The genus was apparently first reported from China by H. S. Lo (Bull. Bot. Res., Harbin 18: 275–283. 1998), who transferred one described species of *Ophiorrhiza* and *Xanthophytum* into *Lerchea*.

- 1a. Inflorescences with secondary axes mostly scorpioid; leaves with secondary veins 12–18 pairs; stipules caducous, not seen 1. *L. micrantha*
1b. Inflorescences with secondary axes mostly dichasial; leaves with secondary veins 20–25 pairs; stipules persistent, 25–30 mm 2. *L. sinica*

1. *Lerchea micrantha* (Drake) H. S. Lo, Bull. Bot. Res., Harbin 18: 275. 1998.

多轮草 duo lun cao

Ophiorrhiza micrantha Drake, J. Bot. (Morot) 9: 214. 1895; *Notodontia micrantha* (Drake) Pierre ex Pitard; *Spiradiclis micrantha* (Drake) H. S. Lo.

Herbs, rather fleshy; stems procumbent and rooting on nodes with apical parts ascending. Petiole densely pilosulous-hirtellous; leaf blade drying membranous, elliptic, ovate-elliptic, or lanceolate-oblong, 5–18 × 2.5–8 cm, base cuneate to rounded and often decurrent along petiole, apex acuminate or obtuse; secondary veins 12–18 pairs; stipules caducous, not seen. Inflorescence terminal, ferruginous tomentose, 10–18 cm, many branched; secondary branches arcuate to recurved, mostly scorpioid, with flowers rather densely grouped; bracts reduced. Calyx with hypanthium portion weakly 5-ridged, 0.5–0.7 mm. Corolla white, shortly tubular; tube swollen in lower part; lobes obtuse. Berries subglobose, ca. 1.5 mm in diam.

Shady wet streamsides in forests. Yunnan (Hekou) [N Vietnam].

This species was incorrectly called *Polyura geminata* J. D. Hooker by Wu (Acta Phytotax. Sin. 6: 294. 1957) in its first report from China, but that was a misidentification. *Polyura* J. D. Hooker is an accepted genus of Rubiaceae but is not (yet) known from China.

2. *Lerchea sinica* (H. S. Lo) H. S. Lo, Bull. Bot. Res., Harbin 18: 275. 1998.

华多轮草 hua duo lun cao

Xanthophytum sinicum H. S. Lo, Guihaia 11: 97. 1991.

Suffrutescent herbs, rather fleshy, to 1 m tall; stems ascending, angled, densely villous. Petiole 3–6 cm, villous to hirsute; leaf blade drying papery, oblanceolate to elliptic, 18–27 × 7–10 cm, glabrous on both surfaces or pilose along midrib abaxially, base cuneate, apex acute or abruptly acute; secondary veins 20–25 pairs; stipules persistent, obovate, 25–30 mm, parallel nerved, obtuse. Inflorescence terminal, paniculiform, lax, ca. 15 cm, multicellular villous; axes spreading to reflexed, mostly dichotomous with flowers rather closely grouped; bracts reduced; pedicels 0.5–1 mm. Calyx with hypanthium portion subturbinate to globose, ca. 2 mm, multicellular villous; lobes narrowly triangular, ca. 3.5 mm, glabrescent. Corolla yellowish green, tubular, glabrous outside; tube 3–3.5 mm; lobes triangular-ovate, ca. 1.5 mm. Fl. Aug.

- Dense forests. Yunnan (Hekou).

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