

## 75. PSYDRAX Gaertner, Fruct. Sem. Pl. 1: 125. 1788.

假鱼骨木属 *jia yu gu mu shu*

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Shrubs or small trees [or sometimes scandent], unarmed. Raphides absent. Leaves opposite [or sometimes ternate], sometimes with domatia; stipules persistent, interpetiolar or shortly fused to petioles or united around stem, generally triangular to ovate. Inflorescences axillary, cymose and several flowered [or rarely 1-flowered], sessile to pedunculate, bracteate or bracts reduced. Flowers subsessile to pedicellate, bisexual, monomorphic. Calyx limb truncate or 4- or 5-dentate. Corolla white to yellow, tubular to funnellform, inside variously pubescent; lobes 4 or 5, valvate in bud, markedly reflexed at anthesis. Stamens 4 or 5, inserted in corolla throat, partially to fully exerted; filaments developed, reflexed at anthesis; anthers dorsifixed near base. Ovary 2-celled, ovules 1 in each cell, pendulous from apical placentas; stigma exerted, ovoid to cylindrical, bifid, with style attachment recessed. Fruit generally yellow, drupaceous, fleshy, subglobose to ellipsoid or sometimes dicoccos, with calyx limb persistent; pyrenes 2, 1-celled with 1 seed, bony or cartilaginous; seeds medium-sized, ellipsoid, cylindrical, or plano-convex; testa membranous; endosperm fleshy; radicle ascending.

About 100 species: tropical Africa and Asia; one species in China.

The species now treated in *Psydrax* were long included in *Canthium*, but they were separated out and *Psydrax* was revived as a genus by Bridson (Kew Bull. 40: 687–725. 1985), subsequently supported by Lantz and Bremer (Bot. J. Linn. Soc. 146: 272–276. 2004). The type species was published as “*Psydrax dicoccos*,” using for the epithet a Greek term that is presumably analogous to “dicoccus” or “dicocum” (cf. Stearn, Botanical Latin. 1983, Group II nouns and Group A adjectives, respectively). Bridson was the first author to accept *Psydrax* in almost two centuries, and she clearly and explicitly gave feminine endings to all its species including the type, *P. dicocca*. Thus ICBN Art. 62.1 seems to apply here: the assignment of gender to a genus is based on predominance of usage, not the original publication, and *Psydrax* is here treated as feminine and the epithet of our species as adjectival following Bridson. Bridson also suggested that *P. dicocca* is restricted to Sri Lanka and S India and the Chinese and Malesian plants that have long gone under that name are not conspecific; however, no differences are evident on the specimens studied, and further resolution of this is outside the scope of the current work.

**1. *Psydrax dicocca*** Gaertner, Fruct. Sem. Pl. 1: 125. 1788 [“*dicoccos*”].

假鱼骨木 *jia yu gu mu*

Shrubs to trees, to 15 m tall; branches compressed or quadrangular becoming terete, glabrous. Petiole 6–15 mm, glabrous; leaf blade drying leathery, shiny on both surfaces, dark green adaxially, and pale brown abaxially, ovate, elliptic, obovate, ovate-elliptic, or ovate-lanceolate, 4–10 × 1.5–4 cm, glabrous on both surfaces, base cuneate to obtuse, margins often crisped, apex shortly to long acuminate, acute, or obtuse; secondary veins 3–5 pairs, in abaxial axils sometimes with small foveolate domatia; stipules 3–5 mm, glabrous, acute to shortly aristate. Inflorescences 2–3.5 cm, cymose, umbelliform, or fasciculate, puberulent; peduncle 3–8 mm; bracts reduced; pedicels 3–8 mm. Calyx glabrous; ovary portion obconic to cupuliform, 1–1.2 mm; limb ca. 0.5 mm, truncate or usually shallowly 5-dentate. Corolla greenish white or pale yellow, funnellform, outside glabrous; tube ca. 3 mm, tomentose in throat; lobes 5, triangular to ligulate, 2.5–3 mm, acute. Stigma ca. 1 mm. Drupes obovoid to ellipsoid or subglobose, often weakly dicoccos and/or somewhat flattened, 8–10 × 6–8 mm, glabrous; pyrenes rugose. Fl. Jan–Aug, fr. Jun–Nov.

Sparse forests or thickets at low to middle elevations, broad-leaved forests; 100–600 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Xizang, Yunnan [India, Indochina, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand; Australia].

The filaments are bent at ca. 180° at anthesis, so the anthers are fully reflexed and held parallel to the corolla tube but upside-down. W. C. Ko (in FRPS 71(2): 11. 1999, as *Canthium dicocum*) described the corolla lobes as slightly shorter than the tube, but on several specimens studied these structures appear to be essentially equal in length. The

fruit color at maturity seems not to have been noted by any authors or collectors.

The varieties recognized by W. C. Ko (loc. cit.: 11–13) are treated here for reference. In addition to the characters given in the key below, W. C. Ko distinguished *Canthium dicocum* var. *dicocum* by its stigmas entire to bilobed and *C. dicocum* var. *obovatifolium* by its stigmas entire or often bifid or emarginate; however, the stigmas of all of these plants are held together and appear entire when young, then spread and become shallowly to markedly bifid at anthesis. Thus, the stigma distinctions may be developmental rather than population-level differences.

- 1a. Leaf blade ovate, elliptic, or ovate-lanceolate; flowers in axillary cymes; fruit obovoid to ellipsoid ..... 1a. var. *dicocca*
- 1b. Leaf blade obovate or ovate-elliptic; flowers 4–6 in axillary fascicles; fruit subglobose or ellipsoid ..... 1b. var. *obovatifolia*

### **1a. *Psydrax dicocca* var. *dicocca***

假鱼骨木(原变种) *jia yu gu mu* (yuan bian zhong)

*Canthium dicocum* (Gaertner) Merrill; *C. didymum* C. F. Gaertner; *Plectronica dicocca* (Gaertner) Merrill; *P. didyma* (C. F. Gaertner) Merrill.

Leaf blade ovate, elliptic, or ovate-lanceolate. Inflorescences cymose. Stigma entire. Fruit obovoid or obovoid-ellipsoid. Fl. Jan–Aug, fr. Jun–Nov.

Sparse forests or thickets at low to middle elevations; 100–600 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Xizang (Médog), Yunnan [India, Indochina, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka; Australia].

### **1b. *Psydrax dicocca* var. *obovatifolia*** (G. A. Fu) Lantz, **comb. nov.**

Fl. China 19: 301–302. 2011.

倒卵叶假鱼骨木 *dao luan ye jia yu gu mu*

Basionym: *Canthium dicoccum* var. *obovatifolium* G. A. Fu, Bull. Bot. Res., Harbin 5(1): 183. 1985.

Leaf blade obovate or ovate-elliptic. Inflorescences fasciculate, 4–6-flowered. Stigma entire or often bifid or emarginate. Fruit subglobose or ellipsoid. Fl. May–Jun.

- Broad-leaved forests. Hainan (Tunchang).

Fl. China 19: 301–302. 2011.