

## 25. RHINACANTHUS Nees in Wallich, Pl. Asiat. Rar. 3: 76, 108. 1832.

灵枝草属 ling zhi cao shu

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Shrubs, subshrubs, or herbs, with cystoliths. Leaves opposite, petiolate or subsessile; leaf blade margin entire or slightly undulate. Inflorescences axillary or terminal, spikes or racemes, sometimes branched into panicles; bracts and bracteoles shorter than calyx. Calyx deeply 5-lobed; lobes subequal. Corolla white or greenish [or purple]; tube cylindric, elongate, narrow; limb 2-lipped; lower lip 3-lobed, lobes ascending cochlear in bud; upper lip entire or 2-cleft, inside rugulose. Stamens 2, exerted from mouth of corolla; anthers 2-theous; thecae unequally inserted to superposed, lower theca with or without a basal appendage; staminodes absent. Capsule with a solid stalk, clavate, 4-seeded; retinacula present. Seeds discoid, variously ornamented, lacking trichomes.

About 25 species: tropical and subtropical regions of Africa and Asia; two species (one endemic) in China.

*Rhinacanthus calcaratus* (Wallich) Nees was reported from Yunnan by C. C. Hu (FRPS 70: 268. 2002) based on a misidentification of *Pseuderanthemum polyanthum*.

- 1a. Leaf blade narrowly obovate to oblanceolate, 20–24 × 6–8 cm, abaxially glabrous, secondary veins 8–10 on each side of midvein; corolla tube ca. 4 cm, lobes of lower lip 2–2.5 cm ..... 1. *R. beesianus*  
1b. Leaf blade elliptic, ovate-elliptic, or rarely lanceolate, 2–7(–11) × 0.8–3 cm, abaxially pubescent, secondary veins 5 or 6 on each side of midvein; corolla tube 1.5–1.8 cm, lobes of lower lip 2–4 mm ..... 2. *R. nasutus*

**1. *Rhinacanthus beesianus*** Diels, Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh 5: 164. 1912.

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Shrubs to 1.5 m tall. Stems 4-angled, subglabrous. Petiole 0–4 mm; leaf blade narrowly obovate to oblanceolate, 20–24 × 6–8 cm, abaxially glabrous, adaxially slightly pubescent, secondary veins 8–10 on each side of midvein, base attenuate and decurrent onto petiole, margin slightly undulate to subentire, apex acute. Panicles terminal, 12–15 × 8–9 cm; bracts leaflike, lanceolate, 0.8–1.2 × 0.3–0.4 cm. Flowers pedicellate. Calyx lobes linear, ca. 10 × 1.5 mm, pubescent, 1-veined, apex acute. Corolla white, fragrant, outside gland-tipped pubescent; tube ca. 4 cm; lower lip lobes elliptic, 2–2.5 cm; upper lip ca. 2 cm, apex 2-cleft. Stamens ca. 1 cm. Fl. Aug–Sep.

• Open dry situations on mountain slopes; 2100–2400 m. Yunnan.

**2. *Rhinacanthus nasutus*** (Linnaeus) Kurz, J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, Pt. 2, Nat. Hist. 39: 79. 1870.

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*Justicia nasuta* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 16. 1753; *Rhinacanthus communis* Nees.

Subshrubs or perennial herbs, to 1.5 m tall. Stems stout, ± 4-angled, faintly striate, densely pubescent when young then glabrescent. Petiole 0.5–1.5 cm; leaf blade elliptic, ovate-elliptic, or rarely lanceolate, 2–7(–11) × 0.8–3 cm, abaxially densely pubescent, adaxially sparsely pubescent to subglabrous, secondary veins 5 or 6 on each side of midvein, base cuneate, margin entire or slightly undulate, apex shortly acuminate to acute. Panicles terminal or axillary, to 50 cm; rachis densely pubescent; bracts lanceolate, to 2 × 0.5 mm; bracteoles ca. 1 mm. Flowers sessile to subsessile. Calyx ca. 5 mm, both surfaces pubescent; lobes lanceolate, ca. 4 × 0.7 mm. Corolla greenish white, 2.1–2.7 cm, outside pubescent with gland-tipped and non-glandular trichomes; tube 1.5–1.8 cm; lower lip 0.75–1.2 cm, lobes 2–4 mm and subequal; upper lip linear-lanceolate, 6–7.5 mm, erect. Staminal filaments glabrous. Style sparsely pu-

bescient. Capsule ca. 2 × 0.3 cm, pubescent with gland-tipped trichomes. Seeds ca. 2.5 × 2.2 mm, papillose. Fl. Oct–Dec. 2n = 30.

Thickets, forests, cultivated around villages; below 700 m. Guangdong, Hainan, Yunnan [Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; Madagascar].

Fl. China 19: 461–462. 2011.