

87. SPERMADICTYON Roxburgh, Pl. Coromandel 3: 32. 1815.

香叶木属 *xiang ye mu shu*

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Hamiltonia Roxburgh.

Shrubs, erect or clambering, unarmed, fetid when bruised. Raphides present. Leaves opposite, decussate, without domatia; stipules persistent, interpetiolar or shortly united around stem, triangular. Inflorescences terminal, cymose, paniculate, or corymbose, many flowered, pedunculate, bracteate. Flowers subsessile or sessile, bisexual, distylous. Calyx limb deeply 5-lobed. Corolla white, blue, pink, or violet, slenderly funnelliform with tube prolonged, variously glabrous or pubescent inside; lobes 5, valvate in bud. Stamens 5, inserted in corolla throat, included in long-styled form, exerted in short-styled form; filaments short to developed; anthers apparently basifixed. Ovary 5-celled, ovules 1 in each cell, erect, basal, anatropous; stigma 5-lobed, included in short-styled flowers, exerted in long-styled flowers. Fruit drupaceous becoming capsular or perhaps schizocarpous, oblong-ellipsoid, dry, with valves or perhaps mericarps separating septically from apex, with calyx limb persistent; pyrenes or perhaps mericarps 5, 1-celled, each with 1 seed, ellipsoid; seeds medium-sized, ellipsoid-oblong or triangular; testa reticulate; embryo straight; radicle basiscopic.

One species: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan; cultivated more widely, including in China.

W. C. Ko (in FRPS 71(2): 119. 1999) estimated six species of *Spermadictyon*, but all other authors seen report only one species. Ko described the fruit as having a septum disappearing early and the seeds as having a loose aril, but the meaning of these is not entirely clear and does not correspond to morphology described elsewhere.

1. *Spermadictyon suaveolens* Roxburgh, Pl. Coromandel 3: 32. 1815.

香花木 *xiang hua mu*

Hamiltonia suaveolens (Roxburgh) Roxburgh.

Subshrubs, 1–3 m tall, perhaps rather fleshy; branches somewhat flattened to quadrangular or subterete, tomentulose to glabrescent. Petiole 12–18 mm, pilosulous or tomentulose to glabrescent; leaf blade drying papery, elliptic-lanceolate to elliptic or ovate, 13–20 × 4–6.5 cm, adaxially glabrous or pilosulous to puberulent to tomentulose, abaxially tomentulose to villosulous with pubescence denser on principal veins, base acute to cuneate or rounded, apex acute to obtuse; secondary veins 10–16 pairs; stipules triangular to broadly triangular, 2–4 mm, tomentulose to glabrous, obtuse to subacute. Inflorescences 5–25 cm, tomentulose to villosulous; peduncles 3–5 cm; bracts ovate to triangular or oblanceolate, 1–4 mm. Calyx densely pilosulous; ovary portion cylindrical to ellipsoid, ca. 1 mm; limb lobed essentially to base; lobes linear-lanceolate, 1.2–2 mm, acute. Corolla blue or white, outside densely tomentulose to villosulous; tube 8–12 mm; lobes ovate to triangular, 1.5–3 mm, acute. Fruit ellipsoid to ovoid, 3–4 mm, densely pilosulous.

Cultivated in gardens and perhaps naturalized. Xizang [Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan; cultivated more widely].

Raizada and Bennet (Indian Forester 108(2): 302–303. 1982) recognized two varieties of this species, *Spermadictyon suaveolens* var. *suaveolens* with “pure white” flowers and *S. suaveolens* var. *azureum* (Wallich) Bennet & Raizada, based on *S. azureum* Wallich, with “azure-blue flowers.” Other authors have not separated these color forms taxonomically but regard the color difference as due only to pigmented vs. albino flowers, a distinction generally not recognized taxonomically any more and not recognized here.

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