

9. LASIA Loureiro, Fl. Cochinch. 1: 64, 81. 1790.

刺芋属 ci yu shu

Li Heng (李恒 Li Hen); Peter C. Boyce

Herbs, evergreen, armored, helophytic or of forest swamps. Stem long creeping and stoloniferous with terminal part erect or ascending, with armed internodes. Leaves several, crowded at shoot apex; petiole long, aculeate, inside with longitudinal air vessels; pulvinus well developed, solid; leaf blade sagittate-hastate, simple or divided, prickly abaxially on larger veins, pinnately veined above bifurcate basal veins; secondary venation reticulate. Inflorescences solitary, long pedunculate; peduncle prickly. Spathe constricted above spadix; basal part when mature opening by a slit, long caudate part involute and twisted, at last whole falling off. Spadix sessile, cylindric, within widened part of spathe. Flowers bisexual; tepals 4–6, free, with vaulted-truncate apex. Stamens 4–6; anthers elliptic, dehiscent by a longitudinal slit; filaments much longer. Ovary 1-loculed, 1-ovuled; ovule hanging from apex of locule; style very short; stigma subspherical. Fruit a berry; exocarp thin; mesocarp finely fibrous; endocarp rather thick, leathery, upper part and area around stigma prickly. Seed large, compressed; endosperm absent, embryo large, campylotropous.

Two species: tropical Asia; one species in China.

1. *Lasia spinosa* (Linnaeus) Thwaites, Enum. Pl. Zeyl. 336. 1864.

刺芋 ci yu

*Dracontium spinosum* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 967. 1753; *Lasia aculeata* Loureiro; *L. crassifolia* Engler; *L. desciscens* Schott; *L. hermannii* Schott; *L. heterophylla* (Roxburgh) Schott; *L. jenkinsii* Schott; *L. loureiroi* Schott; *L. roxburghii* Griffith; *L. zollingeri* Schott; *Pothos heterophyllus* Roxburgh; *P. lasia* Roxburgh; *P. spinosus* (Linnaeus) Buchanan-Hamilton ex Wallich.

Herbs, 1–2 m tall. Stem long creeping and stoloniferous, erect or ascending, ca. 2.5 cm in diam., internodes with stout prickles. Petiole 32–125 cm, laxly prickly, sometimes almost smooth; pulvinus 15–35 mm, aculeate; leaf blade very variable, sagittate-hastate, 35–65 × 20–60 cm, simple or divided; anterior lobe entire or pedate to near midrib, acuminate; posterior lobes strongly downwardly directed to subspreading, once or twice bifid with 3 or 4 narrow to rather long acute or acuminate lateral segments; primary lateral veins 2–4, strong, secondary lateral veins thinner, higher order veins very numerous, all venation flush above, abaxially with rather small, straight to slightly curved prickles. Peduncle to 47 cm, laxly prickly. Spathe dull

orange to black-red outside, dull yellow to rarely dull crimson inside, 18–35 cm with caudate part to 28 cm, proximally widened, very much shorter, 3–10 cm wide. Stipe of spadix obscure; spadix cylindric, 3–5 cm, in fruit elongated to 8 cm. Tepals oblong, 1.5–3 mm, apex triangular hooded, keeled. Filaments ca. 1.5 × 0.8 mm; anthers ca. 0.8 × 0.8 mm. Ovary ovoid, ca. 1.5 mm high. Fruit obpyramidal, ca. 1 cm wide, densely warty-aculeate, sides unarmed, when dry irregularly ribbed, apex truncate. Seed ovoid-cordate, 5–7 mm. Fl. Jul–Sep.

Swamps, riverbanks, ditches, moist places in tropical and subtropical forests, sometimes cultivated along fish ponds and rice fields; below 1500 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Taiwan, S Xizang, Yunnan [Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, NE and SE India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam].

The Chinese record of *Cyrtosperma lasioides* Griffith (Fl. Hainan. 4: 129. 1977; FRPS 13(2): 13. 1979) was based on *W. T. Tsang 553*, collected in Hainan. This was, however, a misidentification, and the plants are actually *Lasia spinosa* (see H. Li et al., Acta Phytotax. Sin. 41: 577–581. 2003).

The young leaves are used as a vegetable. The rhizomes are used medicinally for treating tuberculosis of lymph nodes, swollen lymph nodes, stomach aches, snake and insect bites, injuries, and rheumatism.

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