

1. SALACCA Reinwardt in Hornschuch, Syll. Pl. Nov. 2: 3. 1825.

蛇皮果属 she pi guo shu

Stems clustered, short and subterranean, mostly obscured by persistent leaf bases. Leaves 6–20 per stem, pinnate, sometimes undivided, spiny; leaf sheaths open, not forming crownshafts, sheaths and petioles elongate, covered with flattened spines often in short rows or sometimes arranged in whorls completely encircling sheaths and petioles; pinnae sometimes silvery gray on abaxial surfaces, usually sigmoid, less often linear, regularly arranged and spreading in same plane or, more often, irregularly arranged and spreading in different planes, pinnae at apex usually joined in compound terminal pinna, sometimes this absent. Plants dioecious, most iteroparous, some semelparous. Inflorescences borne simultaneously in axils of reduced leaves on a short stem, this dying after flowering, in iteroparous plants inflorescences borne sequentially, emerging from a groove on outside of subtending leaf sheaths, inflorescences branched to 2 orders or sometimes spicate, covered with many persistent, sheathing bracts very short and spicate, short and branched, or very long, branched, and rooting at apex and forming new plants; in male inflorescences flowers borne in densely arranged pairs on short, thick rachillae; in female inflorescences flowers either solitary or borne in pairs with a sterile male flower, also densely arranged on rachillae. Fruits reddish brown, ovoid, obovoid, or pear-shaped, usually 3-seeded, covered with many overlapping scales, tips of scales turned up and giving fruit a spiny appearance; endosperm homogeneous; germination adjacent; eophylls bifid.

Twenty-one species: Borneo, China, NE India, Indonesia (Java, Sumatra), Malaysia (Peninsular), Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand; one species in China.

1. *Salacca griffithii* A. J. Henderson, Makinoa, n.s., 7: 2. 2008.

滇西蛇皮果 dian xi she pi guo

Stems clustered, short and subterranean. Leaf sheaths and petioles not distinct from one another, to 2.9 m, densely covered abaxially with small, distinct groups of 2–10 light brown spines to 3 cm; rachis to 4.5 m; pinnae 35–42 per side of rachis, lanceolate, regularly arranged and spreading in same plane; middle pinnae 83–125 cm, 4–7 cm in diam. at middle, with spines on margins and veins adaxially. Inflorescences borne together on short stems, their production ending life of stems; each inflorescence subtended by a much reduced leaf or leaf sheath; male inflorescences several per stem, each to 1 m, closely covered

with overlapping bracts; rachillae 13–24 cm; flowers borne in dyads; stamens 6; female inflorescences several per stem, contracted, hidden among leaf bases; individual inflorescences 30–40 cm; rachillae 7–10, 8–12 cm, flowers borne in dyads of 1 sterile male and 1 female flower. Fruits obovoid, to 6 × 6–8 cm, 1–3-seeded, densely covered with triangular, flattened, spine-like scales.

Lowland rain forests or more often in disturbed areas; below 1000 m. Yunnan [Myanmar, Thailand].

Material of this species was treated in FRPS (13(1): 57. 1991) as *Salacca secunda* Griffith, which does not occur in China (see Henderson, Palms S. Asia, 164. 2009).

The leaves are commonly used for thatching.

