
泉七属 quan qi shu

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Herbs, medium sized to robust, latex-bearing, usually evergreen, sometimes seasonally dormant. Stem epigeal, erect or creeping, stout, covered with fibrous remains of leaves and cataphylls. Leaves solitary or few to several together; petiole sheath very short; leaf blade peltate, ovate or ovate-oblong, base often emarginate, apex acuminate; basal veins short, well developed, primary lateral veins pinnate, forming a submarginal collective vein very near margin, marginal vein also present, secondary and tertiary laterals arising from primaries at a wide angle, then arching toward leaf margin and forming a ± conspicuous interprimary collective vein, higher order venation reticulate. Inflorsscence solitary; peduncle shorter than petioles. Spathe barely convolute at base, ± fully expanded at anthesis, yellow, yellow and red or ± dark purple within, ovate or ovate-lanceolate, not constricted, apex acuminate; basal part persistent to fruiting stage; apical part becoming reflexed and revolute, marcescent. Spadix much shorter than spathe, densely flowered; female zone cylindric, often longer than male zone, mostly adnate to spathe; male zone contiguous with female zone, cylindric, ellipsoid, or subglobose, fertile to apex, obtuse. Flowers unisexual, naked. Gynoecium surrounded by whorl of 2–5 short, claviform staminodes; male zone ellipsoid, 1–1.5 cm × 5–6 mm. Berry yellowish green, broadly obovoid-cylindric, 5–6 mm. Seeds ovoid to ellipsoid; testa costate; embryo axile, conic, short; endosperm copious.

About nine species: tropical and subtropical Asia; four species in China.

1a. Spathe inside concolorous purple ..........................................................  3. **S. kerrii**

1b. Spathe inside variously yellow.

2a. Spathe inside greenish yellow, inside basal half brownish; stigma 2-lobed ..............................................  4. **S. henryana**

2b. Spathe inside golden yellow with or without a red basal patch; stigma entire or 4- or 5-lobed.

3a. Female flowers with associated staminodes, stigma 4- or 5-lobed; leaves paler but not glaucous abaxially ........................................................................................................  1. **S. colocasiifolia**

3b. Female flowers without associated staminodes, stigma entire; leaves strikingly white glaucous abaxially ........................................................................................................  2. **S. griffithii**


泉七 colocasiifolia

*Gonatanthus peltatus* Van Houtte.

Stem short, creeping and ascending; persistent cataphylls brown, not netted. Petiole green, cylindric, 30–50 cm, slender, base sheathing; leaf blade paler but not glaucous abaxially, green adaxially, ovate or obovate, 20–30 × 12–17 cm, subleathery, base obtuse, apex acuminate or acute. Peduncle green or violet, much shorter than petioles, 8–15 cm. Spathe reflexed, concolorous yellow, ovate-lanceolate or oblong-lanceolate, 10–15 × 5–7 cm, apex long acuminate. Spadix 3–4 cm; female zone cylindric, 2–2.5 cm, 2–3 mm in diam., ca. 3/4 of length adnate to spathe; ovary subglobose, stigma 4- or 5-lobed, mixed with clavate staminodes; male zone ellipsoid, 1–1.5 cm × 5–6 mm, obtuse. Fl. Mar.–Apr.

Dense forests, wet meadows, by streams; 600–1400 m. Guangxi, Yunnan [Bangladesh, NE India, N Laos, N Myanmar, N Thailand, N Vietnam].

The poisonous stem is used to treat injuries, cuts, snake and insect bites, vasculitis, and skin ulcers.

2. **Steudnera griffithii** (Schott) Schott, Bonplandia (Hannover) 10: 222. 1862.

全缘泉七 quan yuan quan qi

*Gonatanthus griffithii* Schott, Prodr. Syst. Aroid. 143. 1860.

Stem creeping, 10–20 cm, 3–10 mm in diam. Petiole green–30 cm; leaf blade strikingly white glaucous abaxially, pale green axadially, ovate-oblong, 10–25 × 6–15 cm, base emarginate or shortly 2-lobed, apex acute or cuspidate. Peduncle ca. 12 cm. Spathe reflexed, yellow-green on both surfaces, brown-purple below middle inside, 7–10 × 2.8–3 cm. Spadix 2–3.5 cm; female zone 15–25 × 1–2 mm, ca. 2/3 of length adnate to spathe; ovary without staminodes; stigma entire; some sterile flowers on distal part of female zone; male zone cylindric, ellipsoid, 5–6 mm. Berry yellowish green, broadly obovoid-cylindric, apex with persistent stigma, 1-loculed. Seeds 4–12. Fl. Mar.–Jun.

Open forests, brushwood in valleys, wet places; 100–500 m. SE Yunnan [NE India, Myanmar].


广西泉七 guang xi quan qi

Herbs, evergreen. Stem rhizomatous, epigeal, erect, later
decumbent with age, 2–40 × 1–1.5 cm, densely covered with tattered cataphyll and leaf remains, older parts eventually naked. Leaves solitary to several together at shoot tips; petiole pale green, terete, 35–40 cm × 3–7 mm, sheath very short; leaf blade strongly glaucous abaxially, deep olive-green adaxially, peltate, ovate, 10–35 × 8–14 cm, membranous, base emarginate, sinus very shallow, posterior lobes almost absent, apex cuspidate. Inflorescence solitary, very strongly fragrant of naphtha; peduncle mid-green, terete, 6–12 cm. Spathe outside deep yellow, inside deep purple, lanceolate, 9–10 × 2–5 cm, reflexed on opening, apex long acuminate, distal part soon withering, marcescent, proximal part persistent into fruiting. Spadix ca. 2.5 cm × 5 mm; female zone pale creamy white, cylindric, dorsally adnate to spathe; pistil subglobose, 2–3 mm high, 0.5–1 mm in diam.; style very short; stigma 4-lobed, exceeding style width, style and stigma tinged purple; male zone pale creamy white, clavate, free; synandria 4–6-androus, 1–2 mm high, 1.5–2.5 mm in diam., 10–16-lobed, shortly stipitate. Infructescence consisting of few to many berries partially covered by persistent spathe base. Berry ripening dull red, ovoid, 6–11 × 4–7 mm.

Wet areas in seasonal evergreen forests, almost always associated with limestone; 400–600 m. SW Guangxi [N Thailand, N Vietnam]. One of us (Boyce) has collected Steudnera kerrii on the Chinese border in N Vietnam. The population almost certainly extends into adjacent Guangxi.


滇南泉七 dian nan quan qi

Herbs, evergreen, medium sized, to 45 cm. Stems short, densely covered with fibrous cataphyll remains. Leaves few together at shoot tips; petiole mid-green, terete, 30–45 cm × 4–5 mm, sheath very short; leaf blade slightly paler abaxially, mid-green adaxially, peltate, somewhat stiffly membranous, base sometimes somewhat truncate, apex acuminate. Inflorescence solitary, rarely paired; peduncle pale green, terete, 8–15 cm. Spathe golden yellow, inside with a red patch, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, 5–8 × ca. 4 cm, apex cuspidate-acuminate. Spadix up to 2.3 cm; female zone cylindric, ca. 15 × 3 mm, dorsally adnate to spathe; pistil mid-green, depressed globose, ca. 2 mm in diam.; style very short; stigma pale yellow, 2-lobed, exceeding style; staminodes 4 or 5 per pistil, white, shorter than pistil, stoutly spatulate and very shortly apiculate; male zone ivory, bluntly cylindric, free; synandria 6- or 7-androus, ca. 2 × 3.5 mm. Infructescence and fruit unknown.

Wet shaded areas in seasonal evergreen forests, habitually on limestone; 300–700 m. Yunnan [N Laos, N Vietnam].