

### 38. CHLOROPHYTUM Ker Gawler, Bot. Mag. 27: t. 1071. 1807.

吊兰属 diao lan shu

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Herbs perennial, rhizomatous. Rhizome often short, inconspicuous, sometimes thick, elongate. Roots usually ± thick or slightly fleshy. Leaves basal, subdistichous or fasciculate, sessile or petiolate, usually linear to elliptic-lanceolate, conduplicate, base sheathing. Scape axillary, proximally with bractlike cauline leaves. Inflorescence a terminal raceme or panicle; bracts small. Flowers bisexual; pedicel articulate. Perianth usually white; tepals 6, free, 3–7-veined, persistent or marcescent. Stamens 6, inserted at base of tepals; filaments filiform, usually slightly widened near middle; anthers nearly basifixed, introrse. Ovary 3-loculed; ovules 1 to several per locule. Style slender; stigma small. Fruit a capsule, acutely 3-angled, loculicidal. Seeds black coated, flattened.

Between 100 and 150 species; mainly in tropical areas of Africa, Asia, and Australia, also in South America; four species (one endemic) in China.

In addition to the following species, *Chlorophytum comosum* (Thunberg) Jacques, native to S Africa, is cultivated in China as an ornamental.

- 1a. Leaves subdistichous; tepals 2–3 mm ..... 4. *C. laxum*
- 1b. Leaves fasciculate; tepals more than 8 mm.
  - 2a. Leaves grasslike, 0.2–0.4 cm wide; flowers solitary ..... 2. *C. chinense*
  - 2b. Leaves not grasslike, 0.6–5 cm wide; at least some flowers in clusters of 2 or 3.
    - 3a. Rhizome short, inconspicuous; roots nearly clustered; inflorescence simple or few branched ..... 1. *C. nepalense*
    - 3b. Rhizome ascending, elongate, rather thick; roots scattered; inflorescence many branched ..... 3. *C. malayense*

**1. Chlorophytum nepalense** (Lindley) Baker, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 15: 320. 1876.

西南吊兰 xi nan diao lan

*Phalangium nepalensis* Lindley, Trans. Hort. Soc. London 6: 277. 1826; *Chlorophytum flaccidum* W. W. Smith; *C. khasianum* J. D. Hooker; *C. mekongense* W. W. Smith; *C. oreogenes* W. W. Smith.

Rhizome short, inconspicuous. Roots 1–2 mm thick, slightly thickened. Leaves fasciculate, sessile or slightly narrowed and petiolelike basally, linear to sublanceolate, 8–60 × 0.6–2(–5) cm, glabrous. Scape erect, 30–60(–90) cm. Raceme sometimes few branched and paniculate, many flowered; bracts linear-lanceolate, shorter than flowers. Flowers solitary or in clusters of 2 or 3; pedicel ca. 1 cm, articulate near middle or distally. Tepals white, narrowly oblong-elliptic, 1–1.4 cm × 2–3 mm. Stamens slightly shorter than tepals; anthers usually longer than filaments. Capsule obovoid, rarely subglobose, 6–9 mm; seeds several per valve. Fl. and fr. Jul–Sep.  $2n = 42, 56$ .

Forest margins, grassy slopes, rocky places along valleys; 1300–2800 m. Guizhou, Sichuan, Xizang, Yunnan [Bhutan, NE India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sikkim].

**2. Chlorophytum chinense** Bureau & Franchet, J. Bot. (Morot) 5: 154. 1891.

狭叶吊兰 xia ye diao lan

*Chlorophytum platystemon* Diels.

Rhizome short, inconspicuous. Roots cylindrical or subfusiform, 2–3 mm thick, fleshy. Leaves fasciculate, sessile, grasslike, 10–30 × 0.2–0.4 cm, glabrous. Scape erect, 20–40 cm, rather slender. Raceme sometimes few branched and paniculate, several to many flowered; bracts very small. Flowers solitary; pedicel 7–11 mm, usually articulate proximally. Tepals white with pink veins, oblong-elliptic, 9–10 × 3–4 mm, 3–5-veined. Stamens slightly shorter than tepals; anthers usually connivent, 5–6 mm, ca. 2 × as long as filaments. Style ca. 8 mm. Fl. Jun–Aug.

• Forest margins, grassy slopes, river banks; 2600–3000 m. SW Sichuan, NW Yunnan.

**3. Chlorophytum malayense** Ridley, Fl. Malay Penins. 5: 341. 1925.

大叶吊兰 da ye diao lan

Rhizome ascending, cylindric, elongate, 1–2 cm thick, with some scattered roots. Leaves fasciculate, basally gradually narrowed into a long petiole; leaf blade narrowly oblong-lanceolate to lanceolate, 45–55 × 2–5 cm, glabrous, turning blackish when dry. Scape erect, 50–80 cm. Raceme sometimes many branched and paniculate; bracts small. Flowers usually paired, rarely solitary or in clusters of 3; pedicel 3–5 mm, articulate near middle. Tepals white, elliptic-oblong, 8–10 × 3–4 mm. Stamens shorter than tepals; anthers 3–4 mm, slightly longer than filaments. Capsule subglobose, 6–7 × 7–9 mm; seeds ca. 4 per valve. Fl. and fr. Apr–May.

Forests, thickets, hillsides along valleys; 400–1500 m. Guangxi, S Yunnan [Laos, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam].

**4. Chlorophytum laxum** R. Brown, Prodr. 277. 1810.

小花吊兰 xiao hua diao lan

*Anthericum parviflorum* (Wight) Bentham; *Chlorophytum parviflorum* (Wight) Dalzell; *Phalangium parviflorum* Wight.

Rhizome short, inconspicuous. Roots clustered. Leaves subdistichous, sessile, grasslike, usually falcate, 10–20(–37) cm × 3–6 mm, glabrous. Scape usually 2 or 3, erect or arching, 10–20 cm. Raceme sometimes few branched and paniculate, several to many flowered; bracts narrowly deltoid to lanceolate, very small. Flowers solitary or paired; pedicel 2–5 mm, articulate proximally. Tepals greenish white, ovate, 2–3 × ca. 1 mm, closely 3-veined. Stamens shorter than tepals; anthers subglobose, ca. 0.4 mm, 1/3–1/2 as long as filaments. Capsule broadly globose to broadly obovate, ca. 3 × 5(–7.5) mm; seeds usually 1 per valve. Fl. and fr. Oct–Apr.  $2n = 14, 16, 32$ .

Shady places, rocky slopes; near sea level to 200 m. S Guangdong,

Flora of China 24: 205–206. 2000.

Hainan [India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand;  
tropical Africa, Australia].

