

36. CORDYLINE Commerson ex R. Brown, Prodr. 280. 1810, nom. cons.

朱蕉属 zhu jiao shu

Chen Xinqi (陈心启 Chen Sing-chi); Nicholas J. Turland

Taetsia Medikus, nom. rej.

Plants treelike or shrubby. Stems \pm woody, usually few branched, with conspicuous leaf scars distally. Leaves crowded at apex of stems, petiolate (or sessile); petiole 10–30 cm, base amplexicaul; leaf blade elliptic-lanceolate to sword-shaped, veins essentially parallel but with lateral veins branching from midvein in proximal 1/2. Inflorescence arising from axils of distal leaves, usually paniculate, large, many branched. Flowers bisexual, solitary, usually tubular-campanulate or subcylindric; pedicel usually short, articulate at or near apex. Perianth with short tube; lobes in 2 whorls of 3. Stamens 6, inserted in tube or throat of perianth; anthers versatile. Ovary 3-loculed; ovules 2 to many per locule. Style slender; stigma capitate, small. Fruit a capsule, leathery, 1- to several seeded. Seeds black, coated with phytomelanin.

About 20 species: S and SE Asia, Australia, Pacific Islands, South America; one species (introduced) in China.

1. *Cordyline fruticosa* (Linnaeus) A. Chevalier, Cat. Pl. Jard. Bot. Saigon, 66. 1919.

朱蕉 zhu jiao

Convallaria fruticosa Linnaeus, Herb. Amb. 16. 1754; *Aletris chinensis* Lamarck; *Asparagus terminalis* Linnaeus, nom. illeg. (included *C. fruticosa*); *Cordyline terminalis* (Linnaeus) Kunth; *C. terminalis* var. *ferrea* (Linnaeus) Baker; *Dracaena ferrea* Linnaeus, nom. illeg. (included *C. fruticosa*); *D. terminalis* (Linnaeus) Linnaeus; *Taetsia ferrea* (Linnaeus) Medikus; *T. fruticosa* (Linnaeus) Merrill; *T. terminalis* (Linnaeus) W. Wight ex Safford.

Plants erect, shrubby. Stems simple or sometimes branched, 1–3 m \times 1–3 cm. Leaves petiolate; petiole 10–30 cm, channeled adaxially, base dilated, clasping stem and other petiole bases; leaf blade green or variously colored, oblong-lanceolate, elliptic-lanceolate, or narrowly oblong, 25–50 \times 5–10 cm, midvein distinct and raised abaxially, apex aristate. Panicle 30–60 cm; branches spreading, 6–13 cm, many flowered. Flowers sessile or shortly pedicellate; pedicel (if distinct) to 4 mm, subtended by 3 bracteoles; bracteoles ovate, 2–3 mm, margin broadly membranous, apex cuspidate. Perianth reddish, yellowish, or bluish purple; tube 5–6 mm; lobes erect or recurved, nearly as long as tube. Stamens inserted in throat of perianth, scarcely exserted. Fruit reddish, several seeded. Fl. Nov–Mar.

Widely cultivated, sometimes naturalized. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan [probably native to Pacific Islands but cultivated pantropically].

Some authors have adopted the name *Cordyline terminalis* instead of *C. fruticosa* because of the apparent earlier homonym *C. fruticosa* Goeppinger (1855); however, the latter name was not validly published.

