

8. CURCULIGO Gaertner, Fruct. Sem. Pl. 1: 63. 1788.

仙茅属 xian mao shu

Molineria Colla.

Herbs perennial, often with tuberous rhizomes. Leaves several, basal, sessile or petiolate; leaf blade usually lanceolate, plicate, leathery or papery. Flowering stems axillary, erect or apically bent downward, long or short. Inflorescences racemose, spicate, or subcapitate. Flowers bisexual or unisexual. Perianth often yellow; segments spreading, subequal, sometimes basally connate into a tube. Stamens inserted at base of perianth segments; anther nearly basifixed or dorsifixed; filament very short, sometimes subequaling anther. Ovary usually hairy; ovules 2 to many. Style columnar, slender; stigma 3-lobed. Fruit a berry, indehiscent, apex sometimes beaked; beak (when present) formed by persistent perianth tube. Seeds small, often striped; hilum conspicuous.

About 20 species: tropical and subtropical regions worldwide; seven species (two endemic) in China.

Wu Zhengyi (editor's note) believes that species nos. 1–4 would be better treated in the genus *Molineria*, which has recently been treated as separate from *Curculigo*, e.g., by Nordal (in Kubitzki, Fam. Gen. Vasc. Pl. 3: 294. 1998).

- 1a. Berry with a slender beak 2.5–7 mm.
 - 2a. Leaves 0.5–2.5 cm wide; berry beak ca. 2.5 mm 6. *C. orchioides*
 - 2b. Leaves 3–8 cm wide; berry beak 6–7 mm 7. *C. glabrescens*
- 1b. Berry beakless or very shortly beaked.
 - 3a. Leaves abaxially white tomentose 5. *C. crassifolia*
 - 3b. Leaves abaxially glabrous or laxly hairy but never tomentose.
 - 4a. Racemes 2.5–5 cm, densely flowered; berry beakless.
 - 5a. Flowering stems (10–)15–30 cm; filaments inconspicuous; berry subglobose, 4–5 mm in diam. 1. *C. capitulata*
 - 5b. Flowering stems ca. 5 cm; filaments 3–3.5 mm; berry ovoid-ellipsoid, ca. 9 mm in diam. 2. *C. breviscapa*
 - 4b. Racemes 6–9 cm, laxly or densely flowered; berry very shortly beaked.
 - 6a. Leaves slightly plicate, papery; inflorescences suberect, 10–12-flowered 3. *C. gracilis*
 - 6b. Leaves strongly plicate, leathery; inflorescences nodding, densely 40- or more flowered 4. *C. sinensis*

1. *Curculigo capitulata* (Loureiro) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 703. 1891.

大叶仙茅 da ye xian mao

Leucojum capitulatum Loureiro, Fl. Cochinch. 1: 199. 1790; *Curculigo fuziwarae* Yamamoto; *C. recurvata* W. T. Aiton; *C. strobiliformis* D. Fang & D. H. Qin; *Molineria capitulata* (Loureiro) Herbert; *Tupistra esquirolii* H. Léveillé & Vaniot; *Veratrum mairei* H. Léveillé.

Herbs to 1 m tall, stout. Rhizomes tuberous, thick, with creeping, slender stolons. Leaves often 4–7; petiole 30–80 cm; leaf blade oblong-lanceolate to suboblong, 40–90 × 5–14 cm, plicate, papery, sometimes pubescent, margin entire, apex acuminate. Flowering stems (10–)15–30 cm, brown villous. Racemes nodding, capitate to subovoid, 2.5–5 cm, densely many flowered; bracts ovate-lanceolate to lanceolate, 1.5–2.5 cm, hairy. Pedicel ca. 7 mm. Perianth yellow; segments ovate-oblong, ca. 8 × 3.5–4 mm, apex obtuse, outer segments adaxially hairy, inner ones adaxially hairy on midvein or at base of midvein. Stamens 5–6 mm; filament less than 1 mm; anther linear, ca. 5 mm. Ovary subglobose to oblong, hairy. Style longer than stamens, slender; stigma subcapitate. Berry white, subglobose, 4–5 mm in diam., beakless. Seeds black with irregular stripes. Fl. May–Jun, fr. Aug–Sep.

Forests, shady and moist places; (300–)800–2200 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Sichuan, Taiwan, Xizang, Yunnan [Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sikkim, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam].

2. *Curculigo breviscapa* S. C. Chen, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 11: 132. 1966.

短葶仙茅 duan ting xian mao

Rhizomes short, slightly thick. Leaves often 5 or 6; petiole ca. 60 cm × 3–4 mm, usually tomentose, base with a black, membranous margin; leaf blade green, lanceolate, 70–75 × ca. 10.5 cm, plicate, papery, adaxially glabrous, abaxially laxly strigose on conspicuous veins, base obliquely cuneate, apex acuminate. Flowering stems ca. 5 cm, brown tomentose. Inflorescences nodding, capitate, subglobose, 3–3.5 cm in diam.; bracts oblong-lanceolate, basal ones 0.8–2.5 cm, abaxially tomentose. Pedicel 2–10 mm. Perianth yellow; segments suboblong to ovate-oblong, 10–12 × ca. 4 mm, outer segments abaxially hairy, inner ones abaxially hairy on midvein. Stamens shorter than perianth segments; filament 3–3.5 mm; anther ca. 5 mm. Ovary oblong, ca. 1/2 as long as pedicel. Style columnar, 1–1.2 cm, slightly angled; stigma subcapitate. Berry ovoid-ellipsoid, ca. 1.3 × 0.9 cm, pubescent, beakless. Seeds black, subglobose, Fl. Apr–May, fr. Jun.

• Dense forests along valleys or streams; near sea level to 600 m. Guangdong, Guangxi.

3. *Curculigo gracilis* (Kurz) J. D. Hooker, Fl. Brit. India 6: 278. 1892.

疏花仙茅 shu hua xian mao

Molineria gracilis Kurz in Miquel, Ann. Mus. Lugduno-Batavi 4: 177. 1869.

Rhizomes very short, with creeping, slender stolons. Leaves 5–9; petiole 7–13 cm; leaf blade lanceolate to suboblong-lanceolate, 20–50 × 3–5 cm, papery to thickly so, adaxially glabrous, abaxially slightly pilose on veins, base acuminate, apex acuminate to subcaudate. Flowering stems decumbent to suberect, 13–20 cm, brown hairy. Racemes 6–9 cm, usually laxly 10–12-flowered; bracts linear-lanceolate, basal ones longer than flowers, margin and apex hairy, apex caudate. Pedicel 3–5 mm. Perianth yellow; segments suboblong, ca. 11 × 4.5 mm, apex obtuse, outer segments abaxially hairy on midvein. Stamens ca. 2/3 as long as perianth segments; filament very short; anther sublinear, 6–7 mm. Ovary suboblong, ca. 1 cm, brown tomentose. Style ca. 1 cm; stigma capitate, 1.5–2 mm in diam. Berry bottle-like, ca. 2 cm, slightly hairy, very shortly beaked. Seeds black, striped. Fl. May.

Shady and moist forests; ca. 1000 m. Guangxi, Guizhou, Sichuan [Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam].

4. *Curculigo sinensis* S. C. Chen, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 11: 133. 1966.

中华仙茅 zhong hua xian mao

Rhizomes short, thick. Petiole ca. 40 cm; leaf blade oblong-lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, ca. 85 × 4 cm, strongly plicate, leathery, adaxially subglabrous, abaxially villous, particularly on veins, base tapering, apex narrowly acuminate. Flowering stems nodding, ca. 15 cm, tomentose. Racemes ca. 9 cm, densely 40- or more flowered; bracts linear-lanceolate to subulate, 3–3.5 × 0.2–0.3 cm, base and margin hairy. Pedicel hairy, 2–3 mm. Perianth ca. 1 cm in diam.; segments suboblong, 5–6 × 2.5–4 mm, apex acute, outer segments abaxially strigose on midvein, inner ones glabrous. Stamens ca. 1/2 as long as perianth segments; filament very short; anther oblong-lanceolate, ca. 3 mm. Ovary fusiform, ca. 8 mm, tomentose. Style columnar, longer than stamens, slightly angled; stigma subcapitate. Berry ca. 1.6 cm, tomentose, very shortly beaked. Fl. Apr–May.

• Grassy slopes; ca. 1800 m. SE Yunnan.

5. *Curculigo crassifolia* (Baker) J. D. Hooker, Fl. Brit. India 6: 279. 1892.

绒叶仙茅 rong ye xian mao

Molinieria crassifolia Baker, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 17: 121. 1878.

Rhizomes tuberous, short, thick. Petiole ca. 40 cm; leaf blade oblong-lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, to 1 m or more, strongly plicate, abaxially white tomentose, apex narrowly acuminate. Flowering stems usually erect, 12–30 cm, tomentose, apex slightly pendent. Racemes to 7 × 5 cm, densely many flowered. Bracts lanceolate, 2–3 cm, margin and apex often hairy. Pedicel very short. Perianth yellow; segments suboblong, 10–12 × 4–6 mm, abaxially hairy on midvein, apex obtuse. Stamens ca. 1/2 as long as perianth segments; filament very short. Ovary oblong, ca. 1 cm, brown tomentose. Style slightly longer than stamens; stigma capitate. Berry oblong-ovoid, ca. 1 × 1 cm. Seeds longitudinally striped. Fl. May–Oct.

Forests, grassy slopes; 1500–2500 m. Yunnan [Bhutan, NE India, Nepal, Sikkim].

6. *Curculigo orchioides* Gaertner, Fruct. Sem. Pl. 1: 63. 1788.

仙茅 xian mao

Curculigo orchioides var. *minor* Benth.

Rhizomes erect, subcylindric, ca. 10 × 1 cm. Leaves sessile or shortly petiolate; leaf blade lanceolate to linear, usually 10–45(–90) × 0.5–2.5 cm, laxly pilose or glabrous, base tapering, apex narrowly acuminate. Flowering stems nearly enclosed in base of sheathing petiole, 6–7 cm, pilose; bracts lanceolate, 2.5–5 cm, margin ciliate. Inflorescences umbel-like racemes, 4–6-flowered. Pedicel ca. 2 mm. Perianth yellow; segments oblong-lanceolate, 8–12 × 2.5–3 mm, outer ones sometimes abaxially laxly pilose. Stamens ca. 1/2 as long as perianth segments; filament 1.5–2.5 mm; anther 2–4 mm. Ovary narrowly oblong, to 7.5 mm, pilose. Stigma lobes longer than style. Berry subfusiform, 1.2–1.5 × ca. 0.6 cm; beak ca. 2.5 mm. Fl. and fr. Apr–Sep.

Forests, open grassy slopes; near sea level to 1600 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hunan, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Zhejiang [Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam].

The rhizomes are used medicinally.

7. *Curculigo glabrescens* (Ridley) Merrill, J. Straits Branch Roy. Asiat. Soc. 85: 163. 1922.

光叶仙茅 guang ye xian mao

Curculigo latifolia Dryander var. *glabrescens* Ridley, Mat. Fl. Malay. Penins. 2: 66. 1907; *C. senporensis* Yamamoto.

Rhizomes short, with creeping stolons and thick, fibrous roots. Petiole 5–10 cm; leaf blade lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, 18–40 × 3–8 cm, usually glabrous, both ends tapering. Flowering stems suberect, usually 2–4 cm, slightly hairy. Racemes 1.5–3 cm, usually densely several flowered; bracts lanceolate, to 2.5 cm, slightly hairy. Flowers erect; pedicel short. Perianth yellow; segments suboblong, ca. 10 × 3.5 mm, margin involute, outer segments abaxially pilose on midvein. Stamens slightly shorter than perianth segments; filament ca. 4 mm; anther slightly shorter than or subequaling filament. Ovary cylindrical, ca. 1.5 cm. Style slender, subequaling stamens; stigma subcapitate. Berry ovoid to oblong-ovoid, ca. 2.5 cm, slightly hairy; beak 6–7 mm. Seeds verruculose. Fl. and fr. Apr–Sep.

Forests, wet areas beside streams; near sea level to 1000 m. Guangdong, Hainan [Indonesia, Malaysia].

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