

11. DICTYOSPERMUM Wight, Icon. Pl. Ind. Orient. 6: 29. 1853.

网籽草属 wang zi cao shu

Piletocarpus Hasskarl.

Herbs perennial. Rhizomes long. Stems erect or ascending. Leaves alternate, mostly aggregated at apex of stems. Cincinni long, with numerous flowers, forming terminal panicles; involucre bracts small. Flowers actinomorphic. Sepals free, boat-shaped. Petals free, white. Fertile stamens 3, equal, middle one inserted opposite petal; filaments glabrous, posterior; anther locules longitudinally dehiscent; staminodes 3; antherodes 2-lobed, horizontally divergent. Ovary 3-loculed; ovules 1 per locule. Capsule 3-valved, globose, trigonous. Seeds 1 per valve, oblong, reticulate or not; hilum linear.

Four or five species: tropical Asia; one species in China.

1. *Dictyospermum conspicuum* (Blume) Hasskarl, Commelin. Ind. 22. 1870.

网籽草 wang zi cao

Commelina conspicua Blume, Enum. Pl. Javae 1: 4. 1827;
Aneilema conspicuum (Blume) Kunth.

Roots very slender. Rhizomes horizontal, with brown-yellow sheaths at nodes; branches penetrating base of leaf sheaths. Stems ascending or erect, 10–35(–70) cm; proximal internodes to 14 cm, glabrous. Leaves mostly aggregated at apex of stems; leaf sheath brown or brown-yellow, to 2.5 cm, glabrous or ciliate; proximal leaf blades very small, distal ones larger, elliptic, 7–17 × 2–5 cm, glabrous on both surfaces, base attenuate into short petiole, apex shortly acuminate to caudate-acuminate. Panicle terminal, shorter than apical leaves, usually of several lax cincinni each to 5 cm; peduncle nearly absent or to 2 cm; panicle axis densely hooked puberulent; involucre bracts brown, less than 10 mm; bracts small, caducous; pedicels 3–5 mm, usually slightly curved, glabrous. Sepals boat-shaped, 2.5–3 mm, glabrous, persistent. Petals white. Fertile stamens 3; filaments glabrous. Capsule ovoid-globose, subtrigonous, 5–6 × ca. 4 mm, apex acute; pericarp yellow, shiny, crustaceous. Seeds brownish gray, oblong, planoconvex, radiate verrucose, crossed by a striate sculpture at equator. Fl. May–Jul, fr. until next May.

Ravine forests or shaded and humid places; near sea level to 1200 m. Hainan, ?SW Yunnan (Jinghong Xian) [India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam].

The single collection from Yunnan, *C. W. Wang 79431*, has taller stems and larger leaves, but is sterile. It might be *Dictyospermum ovalifolium* Wight (from S and SE Asia and Australia), which differs in having only 2 fertile stamens.

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