
Herbs perennial, climbing or suberect. Rhizomes absent. Lateral branches penetrating leaf sheaths. Leaves alternate. Inflorescence borne opposite leaf and exserted from mouth of leaf sheath, but not penetrating sheath, a long pedunculate panicle of numerous cincinni; basal cincinnus with a leaflike involucral bract at base, with bisexual flowers, others without involucral bracts, with only male flowers. Flowers actinomorphic. Sepals free, boat-shaped, herbaceous, galeate at apex. Petals free, purple or white, broadly linear or oblanceolate. Stamens 6, all fertile, equal; filaments lanate; anther locules parallel, ellipsoid, longitudinally dehiscent. Ovary 3-loculed; ovules 8 per locule. Capsule 3-valved, ovoid, trigonous; seeds 4–8 per valve, polygonal, reticulate; hilum linear.

Three species: China, Thailand, Vietnam; two species in China.

*Spatholirion* differs from *Streptolirion* mainly in having involucral bracts on only the basal cincinnus of the panicles, not all nodes of the lateral branches bearing an inflorescence, and an ovary containing 4–8 ovules per locule.

1a. Stems climbing, to 3 m; leaf blade lanceolate or ovate-lanceolate, 10–20 × 1.5–6 cm; ovary cylindric, glabrous ....................................................................................................................................................................... 1. *S. longifolium*

1b. Stems suberect, 15–20 cm; leaf blade broadly oblong or broadly lanceolate, 3–10 × 2–5 cm; ovary conical, densely hirsute ..................................................................................................................................................................  2. *S. elegans*


竹叶吉祥草 zhu ye ji xiang cao


Stems climbing, to 3 m. Petiole 1–3 cm; leaf blade lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, 10–20 × 1.5–6 cm, subglabrous or pubescent on both surfaces, apex acuminate. Panicles with peduncle ca. 10 cm, subglabrous or pubescent; involucral bracts ovate-orbicular, 4–10 cm. Pedicels absent. Sepals ca. 6 mm, subglabrous or pubescent. Petals purple or white, slightly shorter than sepals. Ovary cylindric, glabrous. Capsule ovoid, trigonous, beaked at apex. Seeds 6–8 per valve, brown-black. Fl. Jun–Aug, fr. Jul–Sep.

Dense forests in ravines, mostly on tree trunks, rarely in sparse forests or grassy ravine slopes; near sea level to 2700 m. W Fujian (Taining Xian), N Guangdong (Renhua Xian, Ruyuan Yao Zu Zizhixian), Guangxi, Guizhou, SW Hubei (Hefeng Tujia Zu Zizhixian, Xianfeng Xian), Hunan, W Jiangxi (Anfu Xian, Yifeng Xian), Sichuan, Yunnan [Vietnam].


矩叶吉祥草 ju ye ji xiang cao


Stems suberect, 15–20 cm. Petiole 1.5–2.5 cm; leaf blade broadly oblong or broadly lanceolate, 3–10 × 2–5 cm, densely hirsute adaxially, sparsely hirsute or subglabrous abaxially, apex acuminate. Panicles with peduncle 5–8 cm, densely pubescent; involucral bracts ovate, 3.5–4 cm. Pedicels absent or extremely short. Sepals ca. 8 mm in female flowers, ca. 4.5 mm in male, hirsute. Petals purple or white, equaling sepals. Ovary conical, densely hirsute. Capsule ovoid, trigonous, beaked at apex. Seeds ca. 4 per valve, brown-black. Fl. May–Jun.