

9. **TRICARPELEMA** J. K. Morton, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 59: 436. 1966.

三瓣果属 san ban guo shu

Herbs perennial, erect, or ascending proximally. Rhizomes long. Leaves alternate. Panicles terminal, pyramidal, consisting of cincinni, involucre bracts and bracts caducous. Flowers actinomorphic. Sepals free, boat-shaped. Petals free, anterior one narrower, all blue or purple, oblong, obovate, or elliptic. Fertile stamens 3, anterior, middle one inserted opposite petal, with slightly smaller anther and slightly shorter filament; filaments glabrous; staminodes 3, posterior; antherodes 2-lobed. Ovary 3-loculed; ovules 4–8 per locule. Capsule 3-valved, cylindrical. Seeds 4–8 per valve, rugose; hilum linear.

Seven species: from the Himalayas to Indonesia (Borneo) and the Philippines; two species (endemic) in China.

- 1a. Posterior 2 petals orbicular, clawed; style to 15 mm; pedicels 3–5 mm at anthesis, 5–10 mm in fruit; leaves 15–30 × 4–7 cm 1. *T. chinense*
1b. Posterior 2 petals ovate-elliptic, not clawed; style less than 10 mm; pedicels ca. 7 mm at anthesis, maintaining length throughout anthesis; leaves 9–14 × 2.2–4.5 cm *T. xizangense*

1. **Tricarpelema chinense** D. Y. Hong, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 12: 475. 1974.

三瓣果 san ban guo

Stems ascending proximally, erect distally, branched, to 1 m, pubescent with multicellular hairs. Leaf sheaths 1–2 cm, densely multicellular pubescent; leaf blade elliptic, 15–30 × 4–7 cm, sparsely hispidulous, base cuneate-attenuate into short petiole, apex acuminate. Inflorescence sparsely pubescent with glandular, multicellular hairs; peduncle 8–11 cm; cincinni 2.5–5 cm. Pedicels 3–5 mm at anthesis, sparsely pubescent with glandular, multicellular hairs. Posterior sepal ovate-orbicular, ca. 7 mm; other 2 sepals oblong, shallowly boat-shaped, ca. 5 mm, sparsely pubescent with glandular, multicellular hairs along veins. Posterior 2 petals orbicular, anterior one obovate, all blue-purple or pale blue, ca. 8 mm, shortly clawed. Filaments glabrous, those of 2 fertile stamens (inserted opposite sepals) to 15 mm, others shorter; anthers oblong. Ovary ellipsoid, trigonous. Style to 15 mm. Capsule 13–15 × 3–4 mm; pericarp grayish yellow, ± shiny when mature. Seeds 4 or 5 per valve, pale gray, 1.5–2.5 mm. Fl. Jul–Aug.

• Forests in ravines; ca. 1500 m. SC Sichuan (Leshan Shi, Mabian Xian).

2. **Tricarpelema xizangense** D. Y. Hong, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 19: 529. 1981.

西藏三瓣果 xi zang san ban guo

Stems erect, simple, ca. 60 cm, glabrous. Leaf sheaths ca. 2.5 cm, ciliate at mouth; leaf blade lanceolate, 9–14 × 2.2–4.5 cm, apex acuminate; proximal leaves smaller and attenuate into a petiole, distal ones with shorter, winged petiole. Inflorescence ca. 17 cm, sparsely pubescent with multicellular, glandular hairs; peduncle ca. 4 cm. Pedicels ca. 7 mm at anthesis, subglabrous or sparsely pubescent with glandular, multicellular hairs. Sepals ovate-orbicular or oblong, boat-shaped, ca. 5 mm, sparsely pubescent with glandular, multicellular hairs along veins. Posterior 2 petals ovate-elliptic, anterior one nearly boat-shaped, not clawed, all blue, ca. 6 mm. Filaments glabrous, middle one (inserted opposite petal) 6–7 mm, others longer, ca. 12 mm; anthers oblong. Ovary narrowly ovoid. Style ca. 5 mm; ovules up to 8 per locule. Capsule and seeds unknown. Fl. Aug.

• Broad-leaved forests; ca. 1800 m. SE Xizang (Mêdog Xian).

Tricarpelema xizangense is more similar to *T. giganteum* (Haskarl) H. Hara (from the E Himalayan region) than to *T. chinense*, but differs from *T. giganteum* in having inflorescence axis and pedicels with multicellular, glandular hairs and pedicels only ca. 7 mm at anthesis.

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