
珊瑚兰属 shan hu lan shu

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Herbs, leafless, heteromycotrophic. Rhizome coralloid, usually branching extensively, fleshy; roots absent. Stems erect, sometimes clustered. Inflorescence terminal, erect, racemose, with several membranous tubular sheaths, yellowish green or pale purple; rachis few to many flowered, lax or dense; floral bracts triangular-lanceolate, small, membranous. Flowers resupinate; pedicel and ovary fusiform. Sepals similar, free, sometimes connivent, lanceolate; lateral sepals slightly oblique, sometimes connate at base and forming a short mentum with base of column at apex of ovary. Petals broadly lanceolate or obovate, usually shorter than sepals; lip simple or 3-lobed, spurseless, margin often involute; disk with 2 fleshy longitudinal lamellae extending from base up to midway along its length. Column elongate, sometimes with ventral wings; anther terminal, incumbent, subglobose, attached by a narrow filament; pollinia 4, separate, subglobose, waxy, without conspicuous caudicles, attached to a solitary sticky viscidium; viscidium triangular, broad; stigma surface elliptic-cordate; rostellum triangular, small. Capsule pendulous, ribbed.

Eleven species: temperate and montane areas of Central and North America, with one circumboreal species; one species in China.

珊瑚兰 shan hu lan


Plants slender, 10–28 cm tall. Rhizome beige to brown, extensively branching. Inflorescence reddish brown, with 3–5 sheaths; sheaths amplexicaul, reddish brown, tubular, 1–6 cm, membranous; rachis 1–3(–5) cm, laxly to densely 3–7-flowered; floral bracts ca. 1 mm. Flowers ascending, pale yellowish green to white; pedicel and ovary 3.5–5 mm. Dorsal sepal arching forward and forming a loose hood with petals, narrowly oblong-lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, 4–6 × 1–1.5 mm, 1-veined, apex obtuse or acute; lateral sepals similar to dorsal sepal, slightly oblique, 4–6 × 1–1.5 mm, connate at base and forming an inconspicuous mentum with base of column, 1-veined, apex obtuse or acute. Petals broadly lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, 3–5 × ca. 1.5 mm, 1-veined, apex obtuse or acute; lip broadly oblong, 2.5–3.5 × ca. 1.5 mm, obscurely 3-lobed toward base; lateral lobes erect, small; mid-lobe elliptic to oblong, 1–1.5 × ca. 0.8 mm, apex rounded and sometimes emarginate; disk with 2 thick longitudinal lamellae extending to base of mid-lobe. Column 2.5–3 mm, with small wings; stigma transversely oblong, broad. Capsule ellipsoid, 7–9 × ca. 5 mm. Fl. and fr. Jun.–Aug. 2n = 38, 40, 42.

Forests, thickets; 2000–2700 m. Gansu, N Guizhou, Hebei, Jilin, Nei Mongol, Qinghai, Sichuan, Xinjiang [India, Japan, Kashmir, Korea, Nepal, Russia; Europe, North America].

The extensive extra-Chinese synonymy is not cited here.