118. POLYSTACHYA Hooker, Exot. Fl. 2: ad t. 103. 1824, nom. cons.

多穗兰属 duo sui shu

Chen Xinqi (陈心启 Chen Sing-chi); Jeffrey J. Wood

Dendrorkis Thouars.

Herbs, epiphytic or lithophytic. Stem erect, often pseudobulbous or fusiform, simple or superposed, with 1 to several leaves. Leaves conduplicate, often narrowly oblong or oblong, sheathing and articulate at base. Inflorescences terminal, racemose or paniculate, few to many flowered; peduncle often enclosed in scarious sheaths. Flowers not resupinate, small or sometimes medium-sized. Sepals connivent or spreading; dorsal sepal free; lateral sepals adnate to column foot forming a mentum. Petals smaller, usually linear; lip superior, entire or 3-lobed, base articulate with column foot, spurless; disk often farinaceous (pseudopollen). Column short, with conspicuous column foot; pollinia 4 (unequal in size, in 2 pairs) or 2 (each deeply cleft), waxy, with a small stipe and a viscidium.

About 200 species: centered in Africa, some species in tropical America, and one pantropical species widespread in Asia from Sri Lanka and India eastward to Sulawesi and the Philippines, including China.


多穗兰 duo sui lan

Epidendrum concretum Jacquin, Enum. Syst. Pl. 30. 1760; Dendrorkis purpurea (Wight) Kuntze; Onychium flavescens Blume; Polystachya flavescens (Blume) J. J. Smith; P. pleistantha Kraenzlin; P. purpurea Wight; P. purpurea var. lutescens Gagnepain.

Plants 10–29 cm tall. Pseudobulbs usually slightly compressed, ovoid to conic, 1–2 × 0.5–1.5 cm, with 2 or 3 nodes. Leaves 3–5, narrowly oblong or narrowly ovate-lanceolate, 7–18 × 1.2–3.4 cm, base narrowed into a petiole and then decurrent into a sheath, apex obtuse or unequally shallowly 2-lobed. Inflorescence terminal, 3–10 cm, usually 1–4-branched; rachis ± narrowly winged, racemose, branches 1–2 cm, 3–8-flowered; floral bracts narrowly lanceolate to nearly subulate, 2–5 mm. Flowers pale yellow, small; pedicel and ovary 8–12 mm. Dorsal sepal subovate, 3.5–4 × 1.5–2 mm, obtuse; lateral sepals broadly ovate-triangular, ca. 4 mm wide at base. Petals linear-oblancoate or subcuneate, 2.5–3 × ca. 0.5 mm; lip 3.5–4 mm, base contracted into a short claw, 3-lobed; lateral lobes incurved, ovate-oblong to narrowly oblong, small; mid-lobe orbicular, margin undulate and irregularly erose, apex emarginate, with a thickened central part. Column ca. 1 mm, foot short. Capsule ellipsoid, 1.2–1.4 cm × 5–6 mm. Fl. and fr. Aug–Sep.

Epiphytic on trees in dense forests or thickets; 600–1500 m. S Yunnan [Cambodia, India (including Nicobar Islands), Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; Africa, subtropical and tropical America].