

## 164. STEREOCHILUS Lindley, J. Proc. Linn. Soc., Bot. 3: 38. 1858.

坚唇兰属 *jian chun lan shu*

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Herbs, epiphytic, monopodial. Stems suberect, short or rather long, noded. Leaves several to many, distichous, flat, sometimes ± conduplicate, leathery, jointed, sessile, often sheathing at base. Inflorescence 1–3, axillary, racemose, lax, often pendulous, many flowered; floral bracts very small, much shorter than pedicel and ovary. Flowers small, often opening widely; lateral sepals adnate to base of lip. Petals smaller than sepals; lip adnate to column base, immovable, saccately spurred at base, indistinctly 3-lobed; lateral lobes erect, small; mid-lobe larger; spur with longitudinal septum inside and often 1 or 2 calli on back wall. Column rather stout, without a foot; rostellum subulate-lanceolate, rather long; pollinia 4, in 2 pairs, equal, ellipsoid-oblong to ovoid, waxy, with short but distinct caudicles, attached by a long, slender, somewhat clavate stipe to a small, ovate viscidium.

Six described species: Bhutan, China, NE India, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam; two species in China, plus one undescribed species (see note below).

A third, as yet undescribed, apparently endemic species has been identified from S Yunnan, where it seems to be rather more common than either *Stereochilus brevirachis* or *S. dalatensis* (Perner, pers. comm.). It has the short inflorescence of *S. brevirachis* but has flowers with pink lip lateral lobes and a glabrous pedicel and ovary.

1a. Inflorescences shorter than leaves; pedicel and ovary pubescent ..... 1. *S. brevirachis*

1b. Inflorescences longer than leaves; inflorescence and ovary glabrous ..... 2. *S. dalatensis*

**1. *Stereochilus brevirachis*** Christenson, *Orchid Digest* 62: 123. 1998.

短轴坚唇兰 *duan zhou jian chun lan*

Stems to 1.5 cm. Leaves 4–6, arcuate, linear, to 4.8 × 0.8 cm, dorsally carinate, apex obliquely minutely bilobed. Inflorescences laxly pendulous, somewhat zigzag, dark green, mottled purple, to 4.5 cm; floral bracts lanceolate, much shorter than ovary, acute. Flowers 2–5 per inflorescence; sepals, petals, and spur pale yellow to pale pink, lip mid-lobe magenta, lateral lobes yellow-orange, anther cap white with a central purple stripe; pedicel and ovary terete, to 12 mm, pubescent. Dorsal sepal elliptic, to 5 × 3 mm, concave, obtuse-rounded; lateral sepals obovate, to 5 × 4 mm, concave, obtuse-rounded. Petals oblong, to 6 × 2 mm, obtuse; lip 3-lobed; lateral lobes erect, transverse, abruptly narrowed and strongly incurved at apex; mid-lobe ovate, to 5 × 4 mm, obtuse, anterior callus a low transverse ridge at base, posterior callus a low keel from apex to spur to base of column surmounted by a large, reniform, bilaterally compressed callus; spur subparallel to ovary, ca. 4 mm, flattened on top and bottom, minutely bilobed at apex. Column ca. 3 mm; pollinarium to 4 mm. Fl. Jun.

Yunnan (without precise locality) [S Vietnam].

**2. *Stereochilus dalatensis*** (Guillaumin) Garay, *Bot. Mus. Leafl.* 23: 205. 1972.

坚唇兰 *jian chun lan*

*Sarcanthus dalatensis* Guillaumin, *Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat.*, sér. 2, 27: 397. 1955.

Stems to 10 cm. Leaves to 12, distichous, dark green, often spotted purple, oblong-elliptic, ca. 5 × 0.5 cm, distinctly V-shaped in cross section, fleshy, apex rounded. Inflorescence axillary, borne from upper part of stem, 3–4 cm, laxly up to ca. 8-flowered; floral bracts ovate, minute, rounded. Flowers ca. 1 cm in diam.; sepals and petals white, lip light purple, hypochile yellow inside, anther cap deep purple; pedicel and ovary ca. 1 cm, glabrous. Sepals glabrous; dorsal sepal oblong-elliptic, ca. 5 × 3 mm, rounded; lateral sepals almost rhomboid, subspatulate, ca. 5 × 4 mm, 3-veined, rounded. Petals spatulate, ca. 5 × 4 mm, 1-veined, rounded; lip ligulate, ca. 5 mm, fleshy; lateral lobes obscure, rounded; mid-lobe ovate; spur pendulous, cylindrical, ca. 5 mm; posterior callus papillose, sulcate in middle. Column ca. 4 mm; rostellum pendulous, long; anther cap narrowly triangular.

Yunnan (without precise locality) [Thailand, S Vietnam].

