

108. THUNIA H. G. Reichenbach, Bot. Zeitung (Berlin) 10: 764. 1852.

笋兰属 sun lan shu

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

Herbs, terrestrial or epiphytic, usually rather large and tall, lacking pseudobulbs. Rhizome short, thick. Stems fasciculate, erect, biennial, simple, sheathed below and leafy above. Leaves distichous, sessile below, often thinly textured. Inflorescence terminal, borne on young leafy shoots, racemose, arching or pendulous, several flowered; floral bracts persistent, spathelike, large. Flowers short-lived, large, showy. Sepals and petals subsimilar, free. Petals often slightly narrower and smaller than sepals; lip entire, embracing column, spurred, fringed on front margin; disk with 5–7 lamellae or fringes; spur short, obtuse. Column slender, subterete at apex, 2-winged, footless; rostellum ± 3-lobed; stigma concave; anther cap terminal, incumbent; pollinia 4, 2-lobed, without a conspicuous caudicle, commonly attached to sticky substance.

About six species: SE Asia and Bhutan, China, India, and Nepal; one species in China.

1. Thunia alba (Lindley) H. G. Reichenbach, Bot. Zeitung (Berlin) 10: 764. 1852.

笋兰 sun lan

Phaius albus Lindley in Wallich, Pl. Asiat. Rar. 2: 85. 1831; *P. marshallianus* (H. G. Reichenbach) N. E. Brown; *Thunia marshalliana* H. G. Reichenbach.

Plants, terrestrial or epiphytic. Stem erect, terete, 30–100 cm tall, somewhat stout, usually with ca. 10 leaves, base with several amplexicaul sheaths, completely enclosed in leaf sheaths. Leaf blade narrowly elliptic or narrowly elliptic-lanceolate, 10–20 × 2.5–5 cm, papery or herbaceous, apex acuminate or long acuminate, with amplexicaul sheaths at base, articulate; sheaths persistent, tubular, 2–4 cm, becoming scarious. Rachis 4–10 cm, 2–7-flowered; floral bracts persistent, broadly elliptic to elliptic, cymbiform, large, 3–5 cm, papery.

Flowers large, white, lip yellow [or white] and with orange or chestnut spots and stripes; pedicel and ovary 2.5–3 cm. Sepals narrowly oblong, 4–5 × ca. 1.5 cm, apex acuminate. Petals similar to sepals in size, slightly narrower; lip broadly ovate-oblong or broadly oblong-pandurate, 4–5 × 2.5–3 cm, irregularly fimbriate or erose, simple, apical margin crisped; disk with 5–9 shortly dentate-fimbriate ridges; spur cylindric, ca. 1 cm × 3–3.5 mm, apex obtuse. Column ca. 2 cm. Capsule ellipsoid, ca. 4 × 2 cm. Fl. Jun. 2n = 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 80.

Lithophytic on rocks or epiphytic on lower branches of trees in forests or in shaded and rocky places; 1200–2300 m. SW Sichuan, SE Xizang, S, SE, and W Yunnan [Bhutan, NE India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam].

The Chinese material belongs to *Thunia alba* var. *alba*; *T. alba* var. *bracteata* (Roxburgh) N. Pearce & P. J. Cribb, from Bhutan, NE India, and Nepal, is distinguished by the lack of a yellow patch on the lip.

