CHLORANTHACEAE

金粟兰科 jin su lan ke

Xia Nianhe (夏念和)1; Joël Jérémie2

Shrubs, small trees, or perennial herbs. Leaves simple; stipules small; petioles usually connate at base; leaf blade pinnately veined, margin serrate or crenate. Flowers small, bisexual or unisexual, arranged in spikes, capitula, or panicles; perianth present in female flowers or absent. Bisexual flowers: stamens 1 or 3, inserted on 1 side of ovary; filaments inconspicuous; connectives conspicuous, if stamens 3, connectives connate at base or free; anthers 1- or 2-loculed, longitudinally dehiscent; pistil 1, 1-carpelled; ovary inferior, 1-loculed; ovule 1, pendulous, orthotropous; style short or absent. Unisexual flowers: male flowers many, stamen 1; female flowers few; perianth 3-toothed, calyxlike, connate to ovary. Drupes ovoid or globose; exocarp ± fleshy; endocarp hard. Seeds containing rich endosperm and tiny embryo.

Five genera and ca. 70 species: tropical and subtropical regions; three genera and 15 species (nine endemic) in China.


The origin and distribution of the family have been discussed by Z. K. Zhou (Acta Bot. Yunnan. 15: 321–331. 1993).

1a. Flowers unisexual, female flowers with a 3-toothed, cupular perianth connate to ovary; male flowers with 1
stamen ........................................................................................................................................ 3. Hedyosmum

1b. Flowers bisexual, perianth absent; stamens 1 or 3, inserted on 1 side of ovary.
   2a. Stamen 1, baculate or ovoid, anthers 2-, rarely 3-loculed; subshrubs ........................................... 1. Sarcandra
   2b. Stamens (1 or)3, base ± connate, central anther 2-loculed, lateral anthers 1-loculed; perennial herbs or
      subshrubs ................................................................................................................................ 2. Chloranthus

草珊瑚属 cao shan hu shu

Subshrubs glabrous; wood without vessels. Leaves opposite, usually in many pairs; stipules small; petioles short, connate at base, forming a short sheath; leaf blade elliptic, ovate-elliptic, or elliptic-lanceolate, margin serrate, with 1 gland at serrate tip. Spikes terminal, usually branched, ± in panicles; flowers bisexual, perianth and pedicel absent; bract 1, triangular, persistent. Stamen 1, fleshy, baculate to depressed; anther 2(or 3)-loculed, thecae lateral to introrse. Ovary globose or ovoid; style absent; stigma subcapitate or minutely spotted. Drupes globose or ovoid.

Three species: SE Asia to India; one species in China.

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**Chloranthus** Schott & Endl.

1a. **Sarcandra glabra**

Subshrubs; stems branched; leaves usually in many pairs, not clustered at stem apex; connectives confluent and ovate, 3- or 5-lobe.

1a. subsp. glabra

Stamen overall more than 2 × as long as anther 2-loculed, thecae lateral or sometimes introrse, on both sides of apical part of connective or nearly as long as connective. Ovary globose or ovoid; style absent; stigma subcapitate or minutely spotted. Drupes green when young, shiny red or yellowish red at maturity, globose (3–4 mm in diam.) or ovoid (ca. 4 mm). 2n = 30x.

1b. Subshrubs; stems branched; leaves usually in many pairs, not clustered at stem apex; connectives confluent and ovate, 3- or 5-lobe.

1b. **Sarcandra glabra** subsp. glabra

Stamen only slightly longer than anther 2-loculed, thecae shorter than connective. Ovary globose; style usually absent, rarely present; stigma truncate or parted. Drupes globose, obovoid, or pyriform.

About 17 species: temperate to tropical Asia; 13 species (nine endemic) in China.

Further study is required on *Chloranthus pernyanus* Solms in A. de Candolle (Prodr. 16(1): 474. 1868), described from China but not treated here.

1a. **Sarcandra glabra** subsp. glabra

Used medicinally. And for tea.


Used medicinally and for tea.


**Sarcandra** (Thunberg) A. Gray.

Subshrubs or perennial herbs. Leaves opposite or whorled, serrate; stipules tiny; petioles connected by a transverse ridge on stem. Inflorescences in spikes or branched, arranged in panicles, terminal or axillary. Flowers small, bisexual; perianth absent. Stamens usually 3, rarely 1, on 1 side of apical part of ovary; basal part of connective confluent, or free and connected or overlapped at base, ovoid or lanceolate, sometimes elongated to linear; anthers 1- or 2-loculed; if stamens 3, central anther 2-loculed or occasionally absent, lateral anthers 1-loculed, if stamen 1, anther 2-loculed. Ovary 1-loculed; ovule 1, pendulous, orthotropous; style usually absent, rarely present; stigma truncate or parted. Drupes globose, obovoid, or pyriform.

About 17 species: temperate to tropical Asia; 13 species (nine endemic) in China.

Further study is required on *Chloranthus pernyanus* Solms in A. de Candolle (Prodr. 16(1): 474. 1868), described from China but not treated here.

1a. **Sarcandra glabra** subsp. glabra

Used medicinally. And for tea.
2b. Flowers white; leaves 10–20 × 4–8 cm, apex gradually narrowed to caudate, margin glandular serrate; central lobe of connective entire ................................................................. 2. C. erectus

1b. Perennial herbs; stems usually not branched; leaves usually 4 (rarely 6–10), clustered near stem apex, often false-whorled, with nodes toward base of stem with scalelike leaves only; connectives linear to oblong-lanceolate or very reduced.

3a. Style conspicuous ................................................................................................................ 3. C. oldhamii

3b. Style absent.

4a. Leaves sessile .................................................................................................................. 12. C. sessilifolius

4b. Leaves petiolate.

5a. Connectives conspicuous, linear, more than 5 x as long as thecae.

6a. Leaves 8–10, lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, apex acuminate ...................... 4. C. angustifolius

6b. Leaves usually 4, broadly elliptic or obovate, apex acute or acuminate.

7a. Central stamen without anther; leaf margin sharply serrate ................................. 5. C. japonicus

7b. Central stamen 2-loculed; leaf margin serrate or crenate.

8a. Connective 1–1.9 cm; bracts 2- or 3-toothed; spike 1 ........................................ 6. C. fortunei

8b. Connective less than 1 cm; bracts entire; spikes 1–5 ................................. 7. C. holostegius

5b. Connectives short, 1–3 x as long as thecae.

9a. Leaves pubescent along veins abaxially.

10a. Spikes many (sometimes 1), axillary and terminal; stamens 1–3, connectives small, ca.

as long as thecae or slightly longer ................................................................. 11. C. multistachys

10b. Spike 1, terminal, dichotomously or racemously branched; stamens 3, connectives 2–4 x as long as thecae.

11a. Leaves broadly elliptic, ovate-elliptic, or obovate, serrate; peduncle 10–16 cm; central connective ca. 3 mm; thecae at base of connectives ............................ 12. C. henryi

11b. Leaves suborbicular or broadly elliptic, dully serrate; peduncles 1.2–2.3 cm; central connective ca. 2 mm; thecae at middle of connectives ............................... 10. C. serratus

9b. Leaves glabrous abaxially.

12a. Stamen 1, connective very reduced, not projecting beyond thecae ........................ 8. C. anhuiensis

12b. Stamens 3, connective longer than thecae.

13a. Pistil with a gynophore 4–7 mm ................................................................. 9. C. tianmushanensis

13b. Pistil without a gynophore.

14a. Leaves obovate or suborbicular, coarsely crenate; 3 connectives obliquely ascending, central connective erect, longer than lateral connectives; thecae at base of connectives ................................. 12. C. henryi

14b. Leaves elliptic, obovate, or ovate-lanceolate, sharply and densely serrate; 3 connectives connivent, central connective incurved, nearly as long as lateral connectives; thecae at middle or apical part of connectives ... 10. C. serratus


金粟兰 jin su lan


Subshrubs erect or slightly prostrate, 30–60 cm tall. Stems terete, glabrous. Leaves opposite; petioles 0.8–1.8 cm, base ± connate; leaf blade elliptic or obovate-elliptic, 5–11 × 2.5–5.5 cm, thickly papery, glandular mucronate, pale yellowish green abaxially, deep green and shiny adaxially, base cuneate, margin crenate-serrate, apex acute or obtuse; lateral veins 6–8 pairs, slightly prominent on both surfaces. Spikes arranged in panicles, usually terminal, rarely axillary; bracts triangular. Flowers yellowish green, small, very fragrant. Stamens 3; connectives confluent and ovate, apical part irregularly 3-lobed; central lobe larger, sometimes apex shallowly 3-lobed again, with 2-loculed anther sacs; lateral lobes smaller, each with a 1-loculed anther. Ovary obovoid. Fl. Apr–Jul, fr. Aug–Sep. 2n = 30.

Forests; 200–1000 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guizhou, ?Hebei, Sichuan, Yunnan [Japan, Thailand, widely cultivated throughout SE Asia]. Used for ornamental, aromatic, and medicinal purposes.


鱼子兰 yu zi lan
**Chloranthus officinalis** Blume.

Subshrubs to 2 m tall. Stems terete, glabrous. Leaves opposite; petiole 5–13 mm; leaf blade broadly elliptic or obovate to long obovate or ob lanceolate, 10–20 × 4–8 cm, rigidly papery, glabrous, base cuneate, margin serrate, apex gradually narrowed to 4–8 cm, rigidly papery, glandular, glabrous, base or obovate to long obovate or oblanceolate, 10–20 × 5–8 cm, rigidly papery, glandular, glabrous, base cuneate, margin serrate, apex gradually narrowed to caudate; lateral veins 5–9 pairs. Spikes terminal, dichotomously or racemously branched, rearranged in panicles, long pedunculate; bracts triangular or ovate. Flowers white, small. Stamens 3; connectives confluent dichotomously or racemosely branched, rearranged in caudate; lateral veins 5–9 pairs. Spike solitary, terminal, 5–8 cm with peduncle. Flowers white. Stamens 3; connectives elongated, becoming linear, 4–6 mm, horizontally spreading or ascending, connate at base, on outside of apical part of ovary; central connective with a 2-loculed anther; lateral connectives with a 1-loculed anther each; thecae at base of connectives. Ovary green, obovoid; style absent. Drupes obovoid or subglobose, ca. 2.5 mm, subsessile. Fl. Apr, fr. May.


Herbs perennial, 20–49 cm high. Rhizomes many noded, procumbent, branched, with many slender, long, fibrous roots, aromatic. Stems erect, 1 or several in a fascicle, not branched, basal nodes with 1 pair of scalelike leaves. Scalelike leaves opposite, triangular or ovate, 4–5 mm, membranous. Leaves opposite, usually 4 clustered on stem apex and false-whorled; petiole 0.8–1.8 cm; leaf blade broadly elliptic or obovate, 8–14 × 5–8 cm, papery, glandular mucronate, basal 1/4 entire, shiny adaxially, glabrous, base broadly cuneate, margin sharply serrate, apex acute; lateral veins 6–8 pairs; reticulate veins conspicuous. Spike solitary, terminal, 3–5 cm with peduncle; bracts triangular or nearly semi-ovate. Flowers white. Stamens 3; connectives elongated, linear, ca. 5 mm, horizontally spreading or curved upward, connate at base, on outside of apical part of ovary; central connective without anther; lateral connectives with a 1-loculed anther each; thecae at base of connectives. Ovary ovoid; style absent; stigma truncate. Drupes green, subglobose or obovoid, 2.5–3 mm; stalk 1–1.5 mm. Fl. Apr–May, fr. May–Jul. 2n = 30.

Forest, wet places; 700–1200 m. Hubei, Sichuan.


**Chloranthus fortunei** (A. Gray) Solms-Laubach in A. de Candolle, Prodr. 16: 476. 1869.

Herbs perennial, 15–43 cm high. Rhizomes deep yellow, with many yellow, fibrous roots. Stems erect, glabrous, 1 or several in a fascicle, basal nodes with 1 pair of scalelike leaves. Scalelike leaves opposite, triangular, membranous. Leaves opposite, 8–10; stipules laciniate and subulate; petiole 7–10 mm; leaf blade lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, 5–11 × 1.5–3 cm, papery, glandular mucronate, basal 1/4 entire, glabrous, base cuneate, margin sharply serrate, apex acuminate; lateral veins 4–6 pairs. Spike solitary, terminal, 5–8 cm with peduncle. Flowers white. Stamens 3; connectives elongated, becoming linear, 4–6 mm, horizontally spreading or ascending, connate at base, on outside of apical part of ovary; central connective with a 2-loculed anther; lateral connectives with a 1-loculed anther each; thecae at base of connectives. Ovary green, obovoid; style absent. Drupes obovoid or subglobose, ca. 2.5 mm, subsessile. Fl. Apr, fr. May.

Forest, wet places; 200–1000 m. Hebei, Jilin, Liaoning, ?Nei Mongol, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi [Japan, Korea, Russia (Far East)].

Used for medicinal and aromatic purposes.
Herbs perennial, 15–40 cm high, glabrous. Rhizomes thick, short, with many slender, long, fibrous roots. Stems erect, 1 or several in a fascicle, basal nodes with 1 pair of scalelike leaves. Scalelike leaves opposite, triangular. Leaves opposite, usually 4 in apical part of stem; stipules lanceolate becoming subulate; petiole 1–1.5 cm; leaf blade broadly elliptic, long elliptic, or obovate, 5–11 × 3–7 cm, papery, glandular mucronate, sub-basal part entire, densely finely glandular abaxially when young, glands inconspicuous when old, base broadly cuneate, margin dentate-serrate or coarsely serrate, apex acute; lateral veins 4–6 pairs; reticulate veins conspicuous. Spike solitary, arising from stem; bracts obovate or nearly ovate, 2–veins conspicuous. Spike solitary, arising from stem; lateral veins 4–6 pairs. Spikes terminal and axillary, usually 1–5 in a fascicle, 1.5–5.5 cm with peduncle; bracts obovate. Flowers white, fragrant. Stamens 3; connectives elongated, linear, erect or ascending, 1–1.9 cm, connate at base; thecae at base of connectives. Ovary ovoid, style absent. Drupes pale yellowish green, globose, striate, ca. 3 mm, subsessile. Fl. Apr–May, fr. May–Jun. 2


• Thickets, slopes, wet places, meadows, roadsides; 200–300 m. Anhui, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Shandong, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang.

Chloranthus fortunei (A. Gray) Solms-Laubach var. holostegius Handel-Mazzetti, Symb. Sin. 7: 156. 1929. Leaf blade broadly elliptic or obovate, 8–15 × 4–10 cm, glabrous, margin serrate, apex acuminate.  


石棉金粟兰 shi mian jin su lan
Leaf blade broadly obovate, 12–19 × 8–13 cm, base broadly cuneate, margin dente-serrate except in basal 1/4, apex acute. Fl. Jun.


安徽金粟兰 an hui jin su lan
Herbs perennial, 32–50 cm high. Rhizomes with many slender, long, fibrous roots, fragrant. Stems erect, 1 or several in a fascicle, with 5–7 conspicuous nodes; internodes 0.7–2.5 cm, basal nodes with 1 pair of scalelike leaves. Scalelike leaves triangular, membranous. Leaves opposite, 4, sometimes 6, on stem apex; petiole 0.7–2.5 cm; leaf blade elliptic to broadly elliptic, 10–13 × 4–7 cm, papery, glandular mucronate, glabrous abaxially, base broadly cuneate, margin densely and sharply serrulate, apex gradually angustate and caudate; lateral veins 6 or 7 pairs. Spikes several, axillary and terminal, slender, 1.5–5.5 cm with peduncle; bracts obovate. Flowers sparsely arranged, white, small. Stamen 1, on outside of apical part of ovary; connective oblong, ca. 0.7 mm, apex not projected, nearly as long as thecae; anther 2-loculed. Ovary ovoid, ca. 1 mm; style absent; stigma subcapitate. Drupes obovoid; stalk short. Fl. Jun–Jul, fr. Aug.


毛脉金粟兰 mao mai jin su lan
Leaf blade with dense hairs abaxially.

2a. Leaves 8–15 × 4–10 cm, apex acuminate ..........................  7a. var. holostegius

2b. Leaves 12–19 × 8–13 cm, apex acute .............................  7b. var. shimianensis

叶脉金粟兰 yu e mai jin su lan
Used medicinally.
Flowers white. Stamens 3, basal 3/4 connate, on outside unbranched, 2.8–4 cm with peduncles; bracts ovate.

1a. Leaves sharply serrate, glabrous. 10a. var. serratus

10b. Chloranthus serratus var. taimanensis


Leaf blade elliptic, obovate, or ovate-lanceolate, sometimes ovate-elliptic or oblong, glabrous, margin densely sharply serrate. Fl. Apr–May.

Wet places in forests, valleys, ravine thickets, swamps, streamsides; 100–1800 m. Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan [Japan, Russia (S Kurile Islands)].


台湾及己 tai wan ji ji

Leaf blade suborbicular or broadly elliptic, pubescent along veins abaxially, densely evidently orange-yellow spotted adaxially and abaxially, margin bluntly serrate. Fl. Jul.

• Taiwan.

11. Chloranthus multistachys

Herbs perennial, 16–50 cm high. Rhizomes strong, with many slender, long, fibrous roots. Stems erect, 1; basal nodes with 1 pair of scalelike leaves. Leaves opposite, usually 4; petioles 0.8–2 cm; leaf blade elliptic, obovate, ovate-lanceolate, suborbicular, or broadly elliptic, sometimes ovate-elliptic or oblong, 7–15 × 3–6 cm, papery, glabrous, marginagedList with 1 pair of scalelike leaves. Scalelike leaves opposite, triangular, membranous. Leaves opposite, 4–6 on stem apex; petiole 0.8–2.5 cm; leaf blade elliptic, obovate, ovate-lanceolate, suborbicular, or broadly elliptic, sometimes ovate-elliptic or oblong, 7–15 × 3–6 cm, papery, glabrous, margin listed.


• Wet places, steep slopes, shaded places; 400–1700 m. Anhui, Fujian, Gansu, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Shaanxi, Sichuan. Used medicinally.

12. Chloranthus henryi

Herbs perennial, 40–65 cm high. Rhizomes strong, blackish brown, with many slender, long, brown, fibrous roots. Stems erect, 1 or several in a fascicle, evidently 6–7-noded; internodes 0.5–3 cm, basal nodes with 1 pair of scalelike leaves. Scalelike leaves ovate-triangular, membranous. Leaves opposite, usually 4 on apical part of stem; petioles subulate; petiole 5–12

internodes 0.6–3.5 cm, basal nodes with 1 pair of scalelike leaves. Scalelike leaves opposite, ovate, membranous, late deciduous. Leaves opposite, 6 on apical part of stems; stipules subulate; petiole 1–2 cm; leaf blade oblong or broadly elliptic, 5–8 × 3–5.5 cm, papery, glabrous, base broadly cuneate to obtuse, margin serrate, apex acute; lateral veins 5–7 pairs. Spikes at apex of stem, dichotomously branched or unbranched, 2.8–4 cm with peduncles; bracts ovate.

Flowers white. Stamens 3; connectives oblong, connate. Ovary ovoid; style absent; stigma thick, nearly semiorbicular, usually several toothed at apex. Flowers white. Stamens 3, basal 3/4 connate, on outside of apical part of ovary; connectives oblong; central connective ca. 2 mm, nearly as long as lateral connectives or slightly longer, with a 2-loculed anther; lateral connectives with a 1(or 2)-loculed anther each; thecae at middle of connectives. Pistil with gynophore 4–7 mm; ovary ovoid; style absent; stigma capitate. Fruit unknown. Fl. May–Jun.

• Wet places in forests; ca. 1100 m. Zhejiang.


& Ji ji (yuan bian zhong)
mm; leaf blade broadly elliptic, ovate-elliptic, obovate, or suborbicular, 9–18 × 5–9 cm, papery, glandular mucronate, base cuneate to broadly cuneate, margin serrate or crenate, apex acuminate; lateral veins 6–8 pairs. Spikes terminal or terminal and axillary, usually dichotomously or racemose branches; peduncle (2.5–10)–16 cm; bracts usually ovate-triangular or nearly semi-elliptic. Flowers white. Stamens 3, base nearly free, only insides connected; central connective ca. 3 mm, with a 2-loculed anther; lateral connectives slightly shorter, each with a 1-loculed anther; thecae at base of connective. Ovary ovoid; style absent; stigma subcapitate. Drupes globose, ca. 3 mm; stalk short. Fl. Apr–Jun, fr. Jul–Aug.


1a. Leaf margin serrate; peduncle 10–16 cm ................................. 12a. var. henryi

1b. Leaf margin coarsely crenate; peduncle 2.5–5 cm .......................... 12b. var. hupehensis

12a. Chloranthus henryi var. henryi

宽叶金粟兰（原变种） kuan ye jin su lan (yuan bian zhong)

Leaf blade broadly elliptic, ovate-elliptic, or obovate, scurfy pubescent along midvein and lateral veins abaxially, margin serrate. Spikes terminal; peduncle 10–16 cm. Fl. Apr–Jun.

• Wet places, thickets; 800–1900 m. Anhui, Fujian, Gansu, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Hubei, Hunan, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Zhejiang.


Leaf blade obovate or suborbicular, glabrous, margin coarsely crenate. Spikes terminal and axillary; peduncle shorter, 2.5–5 cm. Fl. May–Jun.

• Forests; 800–2000 m. Gansu, Hubei, Shaanxi. Used medicinally.


四川金粟兰 si chuan jin su lan

Herbs perennial, 35–70 cm high. Rhizomes strong, 5–7 mm in diam., with many slightly thick, fibrous roots. Stems erect, rather strong, 1 or several in a fascicle, evidently 4- or 5-noded; basal nodes with 1 pair of scalelike leaves. Scalelike leaves opposite, triangular, 0.7–1.3 cm, membranous. Leaves sessile, opposite, 4 on stem apex becoming whorled, obovate, rhombic, or elliptic, 12–20 × 7–12 cm, papery, glandular mucronate, pale green abaxially, sometimes reddish purple or only veins pale reddish, base cuneate, margin crenate or serrate, apex gradually angulate forming a tip ca. 2 cm; midvein and lateral veins densely scurfy pubescent; lateral veins 6–8 pairs; reticulate veins slightly prominent on both surfaces, conspicuous. Spikes terminal, with 2–4 pendulous branches; peduncle (4–)10–15 cm; bracts triangular or flabellate, ca. 1.5 mm, margin irregularly denticate. Flowers white. Stamens 3, base free or nearly free, connate, or slightly overlapping, on outside of apical part of ovary; connectives oblong, 2–2.5(–4) mm, subequal; central connective with a 2-loculed anther, thecae at base of connective; lateral connectives with a 1-loculed anther each, thecae at rim of connective base. Ovary ovoid, ca. 2 mm; style absent; stigma truncate, margin dentate. Drupes brown, subglobose, ca. 2.5 cm; stalk ca. 1.8 mm. Fl. Mar–Apr, fr. May–Jul.

• Wet places in forests; 600–1200 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Jiangxi, Sichuan.

The name Chloranthus oldhamii Solms-Laubach was misapplied to this taxon by Pei (Sinensia 6: 681. 1935, as “oldhamii”).
3. **HEDYOSMUM** Swartz, Prodr. 5, 84. 1788.

雪香兰属 xue xiang lan shu

Trees or erect subshrubs, monoecious or dioecious; branches jointed. Leaves opposite, usually serrate; petiole connate, forming a sheath at base. Inflorescences axillary or subterminal. Flowers unisexual, fragrant. Male flowers clustered in spikes; stamen 1; filaments nearly absent; anther 2-loculed, linear or oblong, transversely arranged; connective with a short appendage at apex. Female flowers in various capitula or panicles; tube of perianth 3-toothed, calyxlike, adnate to ovary; style very short or absent. Drupes globose or ovoid, sometimes trigonous, small; exocarp thin, fleshy; endocarp usually hard.

About 41 species: tropical America, SE Asia; one species in China.

1. **Hedyosmum orientale** Merrill & Chun, Sunyatsenia 5: 36. 1940.

雪香兰 xue xiang lan

Herbs or subshrubs to 2 m tall, dioecious. Stems erect, glabrous. Petiole 0.5–2 cm, basal sheath cupular or tubular, membranous, 8–10 mm, apex truncate; leaf blade narrowly lanceolate, 10–23 × 1.5–4 cm, membranous or papery, glandular mucronate, pale yellow abaxially when dry, olive green adaxially when dry, base cuneate, margin densely serrulate, apex gradually angustate becoming caudate; midvein prominent abaxially, curved adaxially; lateral veins 15–22 pairs. Male spikes 3–5, clustered at apex of branches, pedunculate, 1.5–3.5 cm excluding peduncle at anthesis; bracts 0.8–1.2 cm; stamen 1; filament absent; anther oblong, ca. 2 mm, connective with a projected, acute appendage at apex, 0.7–1 mm. Female inflorescences terminal or axillary, branches few, 1.5–5 cm, ca. 2 cm wide; bracts large, 0.8–1.2 cm, with many small, orange-yellow spots. Drupes green, subellipsoid-trigonous, ca. 4 mm; apical part of bracts tightly adnate to fruit, elongated into a long beak. Fl. Dec–Mar, fr. Feb–Jun.

Forests, thickets, forested ravines; ca. 500 m. Guangdong, Hainan [Indonesia, S Vietnam].

The name *Hedyosmum nutans* Swartz was misapplied to this species by E. D. Merrill (Lingnan Sci. J. 5: 59. 1927).