CRYPTERONIACEAE

隐翼科 yin yi ke

Qin Haining (覃海宁)[1]; Anthony R. Brach[2]

Trees or tall shrubs, evergreen, with quadrangular or flattened twigs, and accumulating aluminum. Leaves opposite, simple, entire, pinnately veined, secondary and reticulate veins prominent, with short petioles and minute or rudimentary stipules, or stipules absent. Inflorescence terminal or axillary, paniculate, racemose, or spicate. Flowers shortly pedicellate, bisexual or unisexual and plants dioecious, actinomorphic, often perigynous, very small; receptacle broadly campanulate. Sepals 4 or 5, mostly persistent, valvate. Petals ± rudimentary, sometimes absent. Stamens or staminodes as many as and alternating with calyx lobes. Ovary superior or inferior, 2–4(or 5)-carpelled, 1–6-loculed; ovules 1–3 or many per locule, anatropous on axile placentas; style 1; stigma 1. Fruit a papery or woody capsule, 2–6-loculicidally dehiscent, valves often held together apically by persistent style. Seeds few or many, small, flat, with membranous wing, endosperm absent; embryo straight.

Three or four genera and about ten species: pantropical with three genera in Indo-Malesia, one unispecific genus in S Africa, and one genus in South America (Bolivia and Peru); one species in China.

Phylogenetic and molecular studies support an early Tertiary dispersal of the family northward from India (Conti et al., Evolution 56: 1931–1942. 2002).

Shia Zhen-dia. 1983. Crypteroniaceae. *In:* Fang Wen-pei & Chang Che-yung, eds., Fl. Reipubl. Popularis Sin. 52(2): 118–120.

1. CRYPTERONIA Blume, Bijdr. 1151. 1826–1827.

隐翼属 yin yi shu

Henslowia Wallich.

Leaves leathery to papery. Panicles erect to usually pendulous; racemules with very numerous flowers. Flowers white or greenish white; bract linear. Sepals persistent. Petals absent. Stamens persistent, adhering to inside of calyx tube; filaments filiform, anthers 2-celled, apically or laterally attached to connective. Ovary superior to partly inferior, lower part adhering to receptacle, 2–4-carpelled, 2–4-loculed; ovules many; style filiform to subulate, ± puberulous; stigma punctate to capitate. Capsule puberulous, upper part dehiscent with 2–4 valves; valves held together apically by persistent part of style and stigma. Seeds many (ca. 100).

Seven species: lowland to highland primary forests of tropical continental SE Asia and Malesia; one species in China.

1. Crypteronia paniculata Blume, Bijdr. 1151. 1826–1827.

隐翼木 yin yi mu

Crypteronia glabra (Wallich) Blume; *C. pubescens* (Wallich) Blume; *Henslowia glabra* Wallich; *H. pubescens* Wallich.

Trees (8–)12–30(–36) m tall, (10–)50 cm in diam. Bark brown to gray-brown; twigs glabrous. Petiole (2–)5–10 mm; leaf blade elliptic to oblong or ovate-oblong, (6–)7–17(–21) × 3–7(–12) cm, glabrous or puberulous, usually finely and distinctly reticulate abaxially, lateral veins 6–8(–10) pairs, base rounded to cuneate, apex acuminate to cuspidate, acumen usually obtuse, sometimes acute. Panicle axillary and/or terminal, ± pendulous, (9–)15–25(–30) cm, without definite peduncle; bracts of axes usually caducous, triangular or narrowly triangular, (0.5–)1–6 mm. Flowers many, up to 150, dense. Pedicels 1–3 mm. Receptacle ca. 0.5 mm high, puberulous. Sepals 5, triangular, ca. 1 mm. Stamens 5, reduced and mostly permanently inflexed in female flowers, (2–)3–5 mm, glabrous. Ovary subglobose, 0.5–1.5 mm in diam., 2(or 3)-loculed, puberulous to papillose; ovules inserted on septa; style simple or shortly lobed. Capsule 2–3 mm, ± laterally compressed; valves 2. Fl. Jul–Aug, fr. Sep–Nov.

Humid rain forests; 300–1300 m. S Yunnan [Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam].

This is a rare tree species threatened by slash-and-burn agriculture and poor regeneration from its tiny seeds.

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