

FLAGELLARIACEAE

须叶藤科 *xu ye teng ke*

Wu Guofang (吴国芳 *Wu Kuo-fang*)¹; Kai Larsen²

Lianas high climbing, robust, glabrous. Rhizome sympodial, diffuse. Stems terete, solid, hard, apically usually equally branched; axillary buds absent. Leaves distichous, circinate; leaf sheath tubular, closed, connected with leaf blade by a short pseudopetiole; leaf blade grasslike, stomata paracytic, apex extended into tendril; tendril simple, involutely coiled, abaxially flattened, hard. Inflorescences terminal, paniculate. Flowers bisexual or rarely unisexual, sessile, actinomorphic, 3-merous, small; perianth segments 6, in 2 whorls, free, whitish, petaloid, membranous, persistent, 3 inner ones largest. Stamens 6, in 2 whorls, exserted; filaments filiform; anthers basifixed, linear-oblong to linear, sagittate, 2-loculed, latrorse, dehiscent by longitudinal slits; pollen grains ulcerate and similar to those of grasses. Ovary superior, obtusely 3-angled, 3-loculed; ovule 1 per locule; placentation axile. Style very short; stigmas 3, linear-clavate. Fruit drupaceous with 1(or 2) seeds. Seeds globose or ± flattened; endosperm copious, starchy; embryo minute.

One genus and about four species: tropical Africa, Asia, Australia, Pacific Islands; one species in China.

Wu Kuo-fang. 1997. Flagellariaceae. *In*: Wu Kuo-fang, ed., *Fl. Reipubl. Popularis Sin.* 13(3): 2–4.

1. FLAGELLARIA Linnaeus, *Sp. Pl.* 1: 333. 1753.

须叶藤属 *xu ye teng shu*

Morphological characters and geographic distribution are the same as those for the family.

1. *Flagellaria indica* Linnaeus, *Sp. Pl.* 1: 333. 1753.

须叶藤 *xu ye teng*

Plants perennial. Leaf sheath 2–7 cm; pseudopetiole 3–8 mm, abaxially flattened; leaf blade lanceolate to linear, 7–25 × 0.5–2 cm, base abruptly contracted, rounded, or slightly cordate. Panicles erect, irregularly branched, dense; bracts short, broad. Flowers small; tepals white, ovate to broadly so, 2–3 mm, thinly membranous. Stamens exserted. Ovary narrow. Drupes reddish when mature, globose, 4–6 mm in diam., smooth. Seeds 1(or 2). Fl. Apr–Jul, fr. Sep–Nov.

Moist littoral forests, mangrove swamps, freshwater swamps; near sea level to 1500 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Taiwan [Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan (Ryukyu Islands), Malaysia, Myanmar, New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; Africa, Australia, Pacific Islands].

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