

4. ERYTHROPALUM Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 921. 1826.

赤苍藤属 *chi cang teng shu*

Scandent shrubs or lianas, with axillary tendrils. Branchlets unarmed. Leaves alternate; leaf blade slightly peltate, palmately 3–5-veined. Inflorescences a dichotomous cyme. Calyx cupular, 4- or 5-dentate, accrescent and covering fruit. Petals 5, ovate-triangular, bases coherent. Stamens 5, inserted at base of petals; filaments short; anthers ovoid. Disk cupular, 5-crenate. Ovary inferior, 1-loculed; placenta central, free; ovules 2 or 3. Style conic; stigma 3-lobed. Drupe ellipsoid, crowned by persistent calyx, splitting into 3–5 1-seeded segments when mature.

One species: S and SE Asia.

Erythropalum has sometimes been placed in a distinct family, the Erythropalaceae, because of its very distinctive tendrils, large and lax inflorescences, and dehiscent fruit, but it also has the free, central placentation characteristic of the Olacaceae, and molecular data do not seem to support such a separation.

1. *Erythropalum scandens* Blume, Bijdr. Fl. Ned. Ind. 922. 1826.

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Dactylium vagum Griffith; *Erythropalum populifolium* Masters; *E. vagum* (Griffith) Masters.

Lianas, 5–10 m tall, glabrous. Branchlets with ± persistent acute bud scales at base, with axillary tendrils. Petiole 3–10 cm; leaf blade ovate, oblong-ovate, or triangular-ovate, 8–20 × 4–15 cm, papery to ± leathery, base obtuse, truncate, or ± cordate, and usually peltate, apex acuminate; basal veins 3 or 5, abaxi-

ally prominent, adaxially impressed. Cymes 6–18 cm, many-flowered; peduncle 4–10 cm. Pedicel filiform, 2–5 mm. Calyx cupular, 5-dentate, ca. 1 mm. Petals white, 1.5–2 mm. Stamens with tufts of hairs on either side. Disk elevated. Drupe ellipsoid to obovoid, 1.5–2.5 × 0.8–1.2 cm, crowned by persistent calyx; dehiscent segments eventually recurving to display bright red inner surface. Seeds indigo blue, broadly ellipsoid. Fl. and fr. Mar–Sep.

Alluvial and riverine forests; 100–1500 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, S Guizhou, Hainan, SE Xizang, Yunnan [Bangladesh, Brunei, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam].

