

## 9. SCUTIA (Commerson ex Candolle) Brongniart, Mém. Fam. Rhamnées, 55. 1826, nom. cons.

对刺藤属 *dui ci teng shu*

*Ceanothus* sect. *Scutia* Commerson ex Candolle, Prodr. 2: 29. 1825; *Adolia* Lamarck; *Blepetalon* Rafinesque.

Shrubs scandent or erect, spinose or unarmed. Leaves opposite or subopposite, leathery, margin entire or inconspicuously serrulate. Flowers hermaphroditic, 5-merous, few fascicled in leaf axils or in shortly pedunculate axillary cymes, shortly pedicellate. Calyx tube hemispherical or turbinate; sepals 5, triangular. Petals deeply obcordate or bilobed, base clawed, shorter than sepals. Stamens equaling petals. Disk thin, lining calyx tube, slightly fleshy, at margin free. Ovary globose, immersed in disk, 2–5-loculed, with 1 ovule per locule; style short, undivided or 2–4-fid. Drupe obovoid-globose or subglobose, apex often with rudimentary style, base surrounded by persistent calyx tube, with 2–4 one-seeded stones, embedded in a thin, fleshy pulp at maturity. Seeds not furrowed, seed coat thin to nearly leathery.

Five species: Old World tropics and South America; one species in China.

**1. *Scutia myrtina*** (N. L. Burman) Kurz, J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, Pt. 2, Nat. Hist. 44: 168. 1875.

对刺藤 *dui ci teng*

*Rhamnus myrtina* N. L. Burman, Fl. Indica, 60. 1768 [“*myrtinus*”]; *Blepetalon aculeatum* Rafinesque, nom. illeg. superfl.; *Ceanothus circumscissus* (Linnaeus f.) Gaertner; *R. circumscissa* Linnaeus f.; *Scutia circumscissa* (Linnaeus f.) W. Theobald; *S. commersonii* Brongniart; *S. eberhardtii* Tardieu; *S. indica* Brongniart, nom. illeg. superfl.

Shrubs evergreen, scandent, straggling, or erect, to 5 m tall, spinescent. Branches opposite to subopposite; young branches puberulent; older branches brown or red-brown, striate, glabrous. Spines mostly 2 per node, axillary, 2–7 mm, recurved. Leaves opposite or subopposite; stipules lanceolate, 2–3 mm, early deciduous; petiole 3–5 mm, glabrous or puberulent; leaf blade abaxially pale green, adaxially shiny, deep green, brown when dry, elliptic, 3.5–6 × 1.8–3 cm, leathery, both surfaces glabrous, lateral veins 5–8 pairs, conspicuously raised abaxially, impressed adaxially, base broadly cuneate, margin inconspicuously remotely minutely serrulate, apex shortly acuminate or acute. Flowers yellow-green, few in axillary fascicles or shortly pedunculate in axillary condensed cymes, glabrous. Pedicels 1–2 mm. Sepals (4 or)5, narrowly triangular, ca. 2 mm, midvein distinctly keeled, apex acute and thickened. Petals (4 or)5, deeply emarginate to deeply bilobed,

unguiculate, ca. 1 mm, both sides slightly inflexed, base shortly clawed. Stamens (4 or)5, surrounded by and equaling petals. Disk glabrous, rather thin and inconspicuous. Ovary globose, base filling calyx tube, but not immersed in disk, 2-loculed; style short, ca. 1 mm, stout; stigma undivided or inconspicuously 2- or 3-lobed. Drupe obovoid-globose, 4–5 mm in diam., often with rudimentary style at apex, base with persistent calyx tube, with 2 one-seeded stones; fruiting pedicel 3–4 mm, glabrous. Seeds brown, flat, obcordate, not furrowed. Fl. Mar–May, fr. Jul–Nov.

Forest understories, open places; low elevations. SW Guangxi, S Yunnan [India, Thailand, Vietnam; Africa, Madagascar].

This species is very diverse in size, shape, and denticulation of the leaves, but Johnston (Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 101: 64–71. 1974) refused to base separate taxa on these characters.

In India, *Scutia myrtina* is grown as a hedge plant, and the edible fruit is used as an astringent.

