

## 2. PLECTOCOMIA Martius ex Schultes & J. H. Schultes, Syst. Veg. 7: 1333. 1830.

钩叶藤属 *gou ye teng shu*

Stems usually solitary, sometimes basal shoots developing into new plants after main stem dies. Leaves to 20 or more, pinnate, leaf sheaths without knees, flagella, and ocreas, usually covered with distinctive spines and brownish or whitish hairs; sheath spines arranged in oblique rows of closely spaced spines joined to one another at their bases, resembling combs; rachis terminating in a long cirrus, with grapnel-like spines; pinnae irregularly (rarely regularly) arranged along rachis, usually spreading in different planes, green but more often grayish on abaxial surfaces. Plants dioecious, semelparous. Inflorescences 2–20 at a time at stem apex, produced and flowering together over a short period of time (stem dying after fruiting), usually branched to 2 orders, borne among much-reduced leaves, covered with overlapping bracts; rachillae pendulous, covered with boat-shaped, persistent bracts obscuring flowers; male flowers very fragrant, borne in pairs, densely crowded along short rachillae; female flowers solitary, fewer per flowering branch. Fruits brownish, globose, usually 1-seeded, covered with overlapping scales, tips sometimes recurved, giving fruit a spiny or fuzzy appearance; endosperm homogeneous; germination adjacent; eophylls undivided.

Sixteen species: Bhutan, Borneo, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia (Java, Sumatra), Laos, Malaysia (Peninsular), Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam; three species (one endemic) in China.

- 1a. Pinnae green on abaxial surfaces, minutely spiny along margins, with elongate, threadlike apices, without prominent submarginal veins ..... 1. *P. himalayana*
- 1b. Pinnae grayish on abaxial surfaces, not or rarely spiny along margins, without elongate, threadlike apices, with prominent submarginal veins.
  - 2a. Pinnae 10–30 cm ..... 2. *P. microstachys*
  - 2b. Pinnae 20–55 cm ..... 3. *P. pierreana*

**1. *Plectocomia himalayana*** Griffith, Calcutta J. Nat. Hist. 5: 100. 1845.

高地钩叶藤 *gao di gou ye teng*

*Plectocomia montana* Griffith ex T. Anderson.

Stems clustered, to 20 m, 5–10 cm in diam. Leaf sheaths green, densely covered initially with whitish brown tomentum, with brown, needlelike spines to 2.5 cm borne in rows almost circling sheath; petioles 6–15 cm; rachis to 1.5 m; pinnae to 30 per side of rachis, lanceolate, with an elongate, filiform apex, without prominent mid- and submarginal veins, minutely spiny along margins, irregularly arranged in clusters of 2 or 3 pinnae, spreading in different planes, green abaxially; middle pinnae 25–50 cm, 2–4 cm wide at mid-point; cirri to 1 m. Inflorescences several per stem, branched to 2 orders, with several pendulous primary branches, these 40–80 cm; rachillae subtended by prominent, ± rectangular bracts to 5.5 × 2 cm, densely tomentose adaxially with brown, feltlike scales; male flowers with 6 stamens; female flowers with stigmas to 1 mm. Fruits globose, 1–1.5 cm in diam.; fruit scales fringed, without bristly, erect apices.

Montane rain forests; 1500–2500 m. Yunnan [Bhutan, India, Laos, Nepal, Thailand].

**2. *Plectocomia microstachys*** Burret, Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Berlin-Dahlem 15: 731. 1942.

小钩叶藤 *xiao gou ye teng*

Stems clustered, to 15 m, to 2 cm in diam., thickening at apex to 6 cm in diam. on older plants. Leaf sheaths green, with whitish tomentum initially, with yellowish spines to 1 cm, solitary or usually borne in short rows; petioles absent or to 2 cm; rachis 1–1.5 m; pinnae 25–30 per side of rachis, broadly lanceolate, with prominent mid- and submarginal veins, margins

without spines, irregularly arranged in clusters of 2 or 3 pinnae, spreading in different planes, gray abaxially and adaxially initially; middle pinnae 10–30 cm, 3–6.5 cm wide at mid-point; cirri to 1.5 m. Inflorescences several per stem, branched to 2 orders, with several pendulous primary branches, these 0.5–0.7 m; rachillae subtended by prominent, ± diamond-shaped bracts 2.2–2.5 × ca. 1.3 cm, glabrous abaxially; male flowers with 6 stamens; female flowers not seen. Fruits globose to ellipsoid, beaked, to 2 cm in diam.; fruit scales with apices minutely bristly initially, these wearing off with age.

- Lowland rain forests; 300–1000 m. Hainan.

There are no qualitative differences between this species and *Plectocomia pierreana*. However, given the few fragmentary collections in herbaria, it is perhaps better to retain it until more material becomes available.

**3. *Plectocomia pierreana*** Beccari, Webbia 3: 236. 1910.

钩叶藤 *gou ye teng*

*Plectocomia barthiana* Hodel; *P. cambodiana* Gagnepain; *P. kerriana* Beccari.

Stems clustered, to 35 m, 1–9 cm in diam. Leaf sheaths green with dark brown tomentum initially, with yellowish brown, needlelike spines to 2 cm, solitary or usually borne in short rows; petioles absent or 2–10 cm; rachis to 3 m; pinnae 25–40 per side of rachis, broadly lanceolate, with prominent mid- and submarginal veins, not spiny along margins, rarely with few small spines, irregularly arranged in clusters of 2 or 3 pinnae, spreading in different planes, gray abaxially; middle pinnae 20–55 cm, 1.5–5 cm wide at mid-point; cirri 0.5–1.5 m. Inflorescences to 15 per stem, branched to 2 orders, each inflorescence with to 6 pendulous primary branches, these 75–100 cm; rachillae subtended by prominent, ± rectangular bracts 2.5–5 × 2–2.5 cm, glabrous or with few whitish gray, appressed

Fl. China 23: 134–135. 2010.

hairs adaxially; male flowers with 6 stamens; female flowers with stigmas to 6 mm. Fruits globose to ellipsoid, beaked, 2–2.3 cm in diam.; fruit scales fringed only, lacerate apices mostly breaking off except where protected by persistent perianth.

Lowland to montane rain forests; below 1200 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Yunnan [Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam].

Records of *Plectocomia assamica* Griffith from China (e.g., FRPS 13(1): 53. 1991) were probably based on a misidentification of this species.

