

5. **THALASSIA** Banks ex K. D. Koenig, Ann. Bot. (König & Sims) 2: 96. 1805.

泰来藻属 tai lai zao shu

Herbs, submerged marine. Rhizome elongated, creeping, with scales and extended internodes, giving rise to erect, short, leafy shoots. Leaves usually 2–6, distichous, ribbonlike or slightly falcate, veins 9–15, parallel, connected by cross veins, sheathed at base. Inflorescences pedunculate, 1-flowered; spathes 2, fused. Plants dioecious; flowers unisexual. Male flowers pedicellate; perianth segments 3; stamens 3–12; anthers subsessile, 2–4-theous, laterally dehiscent; pollen grains spherical, stuck together into moniliform chains; female flowers subsessile; ovary 1-loculed; styles 6, each with 2 filiform stigmas. Fruit spherical or elliptic, split open at top by stellate dehiscence of fleshy pericarp into a number of irregular valves. Seeds numerous.

Two species: Indian and W Pacific Oceans, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico; one species in China.

1. **Thalassia hemprichii** (Ehrenberg ex Solms) Ascherson, Petermanns Geogr. Mitt. 17: 242. 1871.

泰来藻 tai lai zao

*Schizotheca hemprichii* Ehrenberg ex Solms, Abh. Königl. Akad. Wiss. Berlin 1: 429. 1832.

Rhizomes terete, with persistent leaf sheaths. Leaves curved, 6–12(–40) cm × 4–8 mm. Peduncle of male inflores-

cence 2–3 cm, female inflorescence without peduncle; spathe linear. Male flower on a pedicel 2–3 cm; perianth segments elliptic, petaloid; anthers oblong; female flower with ovary of 6 carpels; stigmatic branches 1–1.5 cm. Fruit greenish, 2–2.5 × 1.8–3.2 cm.

Submerged in shallow water along seacoasts. Hainan, Taiwan [India, Indonesia, Japan (Ryukyu Islands), Malaysia, Myanmar, New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; Red Sea to Indian Ocean and W Pacific Ocean].

Fl. China 23: 98. 2010.