

## 2. **BELAMCANDA** Adanson, Fam. Pl. 2: 60, 524. 1763, nom. cons.

射干属 she gan shu

*Pardanthus* Ker Gawler.

Herbs perennial, rhizomatous. Rhizome knobbly. Aerial stem well developed, erect, leafy. Leaves cauline, 2-ranked, oriented edgewise to aerial stem, sword-shaped. Inflorescence a ± dichotomously branched panicle of rhipidia. Perianth tube short; segments ± similar, outer ones somewhat larger than inner. Stamens inserted at base of perianth segments. Style 1, slender, 3-lobed at apex. Capsule obovoid or ellipsoid. Seeds black, glossy.

One species: Bhutan, China, India, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Russia, Vietnam, and probably elsewhere in SE Asia.

*Belamcanda* might be better placed in *Iris*: chromosomal, gene sequence, and gross morphological data all show it to be the closest relative of *Iris dichotoma*.

**1. *Belamcanda chinensis*** (Linnaeus) Redouté, Liliac. 3: t. 121. 1805.

射干 she gan

*Ixia chinensis* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 36. 1753; *Belamcanda chinensis* var. *taiwanensis* S. S. Ying; *B. pampaninii* H. Léveillé; *B. punctata* Moench; *Pardanthus chinensis* (Linnaeus) Ker Gawler.

Rhizome pale brown. Stems 1–1.5 m. Leaves 20–60 × 2–4 cm, midvein obscure, apex acuminate. Flowers reddish orange with dark spots, 3–4 cm in diam.; pedicel slender, ca. 1.5 cm. Outer perianth segments obovate or elliptic, ca. 2.5 × 1 cm, base cuneate, apex obtuse. Stamens 1.8–2 cm. Style equaling perianth segments, lobes spreading. Capsule 2.5–3 × 1.5–2.5 cm, apex not beaked. Seeds ca. 5 mm in diam. Fl. Jun–Aug, fr. Jul–Sep.  $2n = (16, 27), 32$ .

Near sea level to 2200 m. Anhui, Fujian, Gansu, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Liaoning, Ningxia, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Xizang, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Bhutan, India, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Russia, Vietnam, and probably elsewhere in SE Asia].

Plants are usually cultivated, and the rhizomes are used in traditional Chinese medicine.

Flora of China 24: 312–313. 2000.