

52. ROHDEA Roth, Nov. Pl. Sp. 196. 1821.

万年青属 *wan nian qing shu*

Liang Songyun (梁松筠 Liang Song-jun); Minoru N. Tamura

Herbs perennial, rhizomatous. Rhizome ascending, thick, stout. Leaves basal, tufted, usually slightly distichous equitant, sessile, base dilated. Scape axillary, suberect, much shorter than leaves. Inflorescence a terminal spike, densely flowered, fleshy; bracts short, membranous. Flowers bisexual. Perianth segments connate except at apex into a globose-campanulate tube; lobes incurved, short, fleshy. Stamens 6; filaments nearly wholly adnate to perianth tube; anthers positioned distally in perianth tube, dorsifixed. Ovary globose, 3-loculed; ovules 2 per locule. Style very short or inconspicuous; stigma 3-lobed. Fruit a berry, 1-seeded.

One species: China, Japan.

1. *Rohdea japonica* (Thunberg) Roth, Nov. Pl. Sp. 197. 1821.

万年青 *wan nian qing*

Orontium japonicum Thunberg in Murray, Syst. Veg., ed. 14, 340. 1784; *Rohdea esquirolii* H. Léveillé; *R. sinensis* H. Léveillé.

Rhizome suberect, 1.5–2.5 cm thick. Leaves 3–8(–12), dark green, lanceolate-oblong, oblanceolate, or lanceolate, gradually narrowed to both ends, 15–50 × 2.5–7 cm, thickly papery, apex acute to subacuminate. Scape 2.5–4(–10) cm, stout. Spike suboblong, 3–4 × 1.2–1.7 cm, densely many flowered; bracts ovate, 2.5–6 × 2–4 mm. Perianth pale yellow, 4–5 × ca. 6 mm; lobes small, thick. Anthers ovate, 1.3–1.5 mm. Berries red at maturity, globose, ca. 8 mm in diam. Fl. May–Jun, fr. Sep–Oct. $2n = 14, 36, 38$, ca. 72*.

Moist places in forests, grassy slopes; 700–1700 m. Guangxi, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Shandong, Sichuan, Zhejiang [Japan].

Widely cultivated as an ornamental.

