

1. TACCA J. R. Forster & G. Forster, Char. Gen. Pl. 35. 1775, nom. cons.

薯属 ju ruo shu shu

*Leontopetaloides* Boehmer, nom. rej.

Rhizomes cylindrical to subcylindrical or tubers globose to broadly ellipsoid-globose. Leaf blade entire or pinnately or palmately lobed, base not elongate, stomatal apparatus mostly axillocytic. Inflorescences terminal; involucre bracts 2–6(–12). Perianth campanulate, 6-lobed, persistent or soon deciduous. Ovary 1-loculed or imperfectly 4-loculed; placentas 3, parietal. Fruit a berry. Seeds reniform, ovoid, or ellipsoid, striate.

About 11 species: mainly in tropical Asia and Oceania; four species (one endemic, one introduced) in China.

Used medicinally and as a source of starch.

- 1a. Leaf blade lobed; rootstock a globose to broadly ellipsoid-globose tuber ..... 4. *T. leontopetaloides*
- 1b. Leaf blade entire; rootstock a cylindrical or subcylindrical rhizome.
  - 2a. Inner 2 involucre bracts long petiolate ..... 3. *T. integrifolia*
  - 2b. Inner 2 involucre bracts sessile.
    - 3a. Inner involucre bracts broadly ovate ..... 1. *T. chantrieri*
    - 3b. Inner involucre bracts suborbicular-fan-shaped ..... 2. *T. subflabellata*

1. *Tacca chantrieri* André, Rev. Hort. 73: 541. 1901.

箭根薯 jian gen shu

*Clerodendrum esquirolii* H. Léveillé; *Schizocapsa itagakii* Yamamoto; *Tacca esquirolii* (H. Léveillé) Rehder; *T. minor* Ridley; *T. paxiana* H. Limpricht.

Rhizomes subcylindrical, thick. Petiole 10–30 cm; leaf blade oblong to oblong-elliptic, 20–50(–60) × 7–14(–25) cm, glabrous or abaxially pubescent, base rounded-cuneate to cuneate, apex shortly caudate. Scape long; involucre bracts 4, dark purple, outer 2 ovate-lanceolate, inner 2 broadly ovate; umbels 5–7 (–18)-flowered. Perianth lobes purplish brown, lanceolate. Stigma 3-lobed. Berry purplish brown, ellipsoid, ca. 3 cm, fleshy, 6-ridged, with persistent perianth lobes. Seeds reniform. Fl. and fr. Apr–Nov.

Forests, valleys, along rivers; 200–1300 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hunan, SE Xizang (Mêdog Xian), Yunnan [Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam].

A vulnerable species in China.

2. *Tacca subflabellata* P. P. Ling & C. T. Ting, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 20: 202. 1982.

扇苞薯 shan bao ju ruo shu

Petiole 10–30 cm; leaf blade oblong to oblong-elliptic, 35–40 × 13–20 cm, glabrescent, base rounded-cuneate to cuneate, apex acuminate. Scape 25–30 cm; involucre bracts 4, outer 2 ovate-lanceolate to elliptic, inner 2 incurved, suborbicular-fan-shaped. Perianth tube ca. 5 mm; lobes in 2 whorls, ovate to narrowly so. Filaments spatulate at apex. Style short, 3-winged, wings alternate with stigma lobes; stigma deeply 3-lobed. Fruit and seeds unknown. Fl. Apr–Jun.

• Mountains; 100–200 m. SE Yunnan (Hekou Yao Zu Zizhixian).

3. *Tacca integrifolia* Ker Gawler, Bot. Mag. 36: t. 1488. 1812.

丝须薯 si xu ju ruo shu

*Ataccia integrifolia* (Ker Gawler) Presl; *Tacca cristata*

Jack; *T. laevis* Roxburgh.

Rhizomes subcylindrical, thick. Leaf blade oblong-lanceolate to oblong-elliptic, 50–55 × 18.5–21 cm, base cuneate, apex acuminate, sometimes caudate. Scape ca. 55 cm; involucre bracts 4, outer 2 sessile, narrowly deltoid-ovate, inner 2 long petiolate, spatulate, thin. Perianth purplish black; tube 1–2 cm; lobes 6, in 2 whorls, outer ones narrowly oblong, inner ones broadly obovate. Filaments spatulate at apex. Style extremely short; stigma deeply 3-lobed. Berry narrowly ellipsoid, 4–5 × ca. 2 cm, fleshy, 6-ridged, with persistent perianth lobes. Seeds irregularly ellipsoid-ovoid. Fl. Jul–Aug.

Forests, mountain slopes; 800–900 m. SE Xizang (Mêdog Xian) [Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, E India, Indonesia, Laos, W Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam].

4. *Tacca leontopetaloides* (Linnaeus) Kuntze, Revis. Gen. Pl. 2: 704. 1891.

薯 ju ruo shu

*Leontice leontopetaloides* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 313. 1753; *Tacca gaogao* Blanco; *T. hawaiiensis* H. Limpricht; *T. involucrata* Schumacher & Thonning; *T. pinnatifida* J. R. Forster & G. Forster.

Tubers globose to broadly ellipsoid-globose; cork dark gray to brown; transverse section white. Leaf blade broadly obovate, ovate, or oblong-ovate, palmately 3-lobed; lobes pinnately lobed. Involucre bracts 4–12; umbel 20–40 flowered. Bracteoles to 25 cm. Perianth pale yellow, pale yellowish green, or dark purplish green; outer lobes elliptic to ovoid, inner ones broadly to narrowly ovate. Berry drooping, globose, ellipsoid-globose, or ovoid-globose. Seeds many, flattened globose; testa spongy.

Cultivated. Taiwan [native to Africa, S and SE Asia, N Australia, and S Pacific Islands].

A source of starch.

