

8. SCINDAPSUS Schott in Schott & Endlicher, Melet. Bot. 21. 1832.

藤芋属 teng yu shu

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Lianas, creeping and climbing against trees with aid of adhesive roots. Stem robust, branched. Leaves spiro-distichous; petiole usually sheathing or winged throughout its length; leaf blade undivided, pinnately veined, with very numerous parallel, thin lateral veins. Inflorescences solitary, near stem apices; peduncle at last laterally protruding from petiolar sheath. Spathe not constricted, initially involute and tubular, afterward somewhat inflated, finally expanding only by a rather narrow longitudinal slit, never entirely or conspicuously flat-spreading, falling off as a whole leaving a thick scar on apex of peduncle. Spadix drying black, cylindric, much thicker than peduncle. Flowers many, bisexual, naked. Stamens 4; filaments strap-shaped. Ovary with flat, often subrhomboid or quadrangular apex, 4–6-angular, 1-loculed; ovule 1, basal; stigma sessile, disciform to linear. Seeds subreniform.

About 36 species: tropical Asia; one species in China.

1. *Scindapsus maclurei* (Merrill) Merrill & F. P. Metcalf, Lingnan Sci. J. 21: 5. 1945.

海南藤芋 hai nan teng yu

Rhaphidophora maclurei Merrill, Philipp. J. Sci. 21: 337. 1922; *Scindapsus megaphyllus* Merrill.

Lianas. Stem robust, ca. 2.5 cm in diam. Petiole 26–32 cm, base imbricate, sheath reaching pulvinus; leaf blade pale green abaxially, green adaxially, drying pale brown, oblong-elliptic or ovate-elliptic, 23–46 × 12–24 cm, leathery, base subcordate, margin entire, apex acute or shortly acuminate; lateral veins numerous, diverging at 70–80° from midrib. Peduncle robust.

Spathe yellow, involute-tubular, 18–22 cm, apex acuminate. Spadix sessile, cylindric, ca. 15 × 2.5 cm. Filaments ca. 4 mm; anthers ovoid, ca. 3 mm. Fruit ca. 9 × 5 mm, apex truncate, 1-loculed, 1-seeded. Fl. Nov–Dec.

Dense tropical forests, creeping and climbing on trees and stone walls; 400–600 m. Hainan [N Thailand, N Vietnam].

Scindapsus maclurei differs from the vegetatively very similar *Rhaphidophora megaphylla* in leaf venation (primary lateral veins numerous and not differentiated from the interprimary veins, diverging at 70–80° from midrib in *S. maclurei* vs. primary lateral veins 10–13 on each side, diverging at 80–90° from midrib, and strongly differentiated from the interprimary veins in *R. megaphylla*).

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