
距药姜属 ju yao jiang shu

Rhizomes very short; roots fascicled, thick, fleshy. Leaves petiolate or ± sessile; ligule at base of petiole; leaf blade oblanceolate or lanceolate. Inflorescence a terminal spike; bracts colored, persistent, 1-flowered. Flowers yellow or orange. Calyx long tubular, split on 1 side. Corolla tube equaling or longer than calyx; lobes subequal; central one erect, narrow, concave; lateral ones connate to claw of labellum for about 1/2 their length. Lateral staminodes erect, petaloid. Labellum reflexed, broadly cuneate, apex emarginate to 2-cleft. Filament erect, short; anther locules linear, contiguous; connective forming a basal, forked appendage. Ovary globose, 3-loculed; ovules numerous per locule; placenta axile. Style linear; stigma turbinate, margin ciliate. Capsule globose, soon dehiscing to base with recurved valves exposing seeds on a columnar mass. Seeds red, gray, or black, angled; aril small or absent.

Five species: Bhutan, China, India, Kashmir, Myanmar, Nepal, Sikkim, Thailand, Vietnam; three species in China.

1a. Bracts red, longer than calyx; leaves petiolate .................................................................................................................  1. C. spicata
1b. Bracts green, shorter than calyx; leaves ± sessile.

2a. Spikes 2–10-flowered ...............................................................................................................................................  2. C. gracilis
2b. Spikes 15–20- or more flowered ........................................................................................................................... 3. C. cathcartii


红苞距药姜 hong bao ju yao jiang


Pseudostems 30–60 cm. Leaves 4–7, petiolate; ligule 5–10 mm, membranous, apex obtuse or acute; petiole 1.5–2 cm; leaf blade oblanceolate to linear, 12–30 × 1.6–4 cm, base rounded or obtuse, apex caudate-acuminate. Spikes 7–12 cm, densely many flowered; bracts red, oblanceolate, 2.5–3 cm, longer than calyx. Flowers yellow. Calyx 1.5–2.5 cm, split on 1 side, apex 2-toothed. Corolla 2–2.5 cm; lobes lanceolate, 2–2.5 cm. Lateral staminodes oblanceolate-oblong, subequaling central lobe of corolla. Labellum ca. 2.5 cm, apex 2-cleft. Anther linear, ca. 1.5 cm. Capsule red, globose, ca. 1 cm in diam. Seeds black, ovoid, enclosed in white, scarious aril. Fl. Jul, fr. Sep–Oct. 2n = 34.

Forest floors or epiphytic on trees; 1100–2600 m. Guizhou, Sichuan, Xizang, Yunnan [Bhutan, N India, Nepal, Sikkim].

2. Cautleya gracilis (Smith) Dandy, J. Bot. 70: 328. 1932.

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Pseudostems 25–80 cm, slender, base with bladeless leaves. Leaves 4–6, ± sessile; leaf sheath greenish white or with purplered spot; ligule ca. 2 mm, membranous, apex rounded; leaf blade adaxially green, abaxially usually purple or green, lanceolate or oblanceolate, 6–18 × 1.5–6 cm, glabrous, base rounded or attenuate, apex caudate-acuminate. Spikes laxly 2–10-flowered; rachis red, slightly flexuous; bracts green, lanceolate, shorter than calyx. Calyx purple-red, 1.5–2 cm, deeply split on 1 side, apex minutely toothed. Corolla tube slightly exserted from calyx; lobes bright yellow, lanceolate, 1.5–2 cm. Lateral staminodes erect, petaloid. Labellum obovate, equaling corolla lobes, apically 2-cleft to below middle. Filament curved, ca. 2 cm. Ovary glabrous. Capsule red, globose, ca. 8 mm in diam.; valves reflexed, red inside. Seeds black, angled; aril absent. Fl. Aug–Sep, fr. Sep–Nov.

Moist valleys or epiphytic on trees; 900–3100 m. Sichuan, Xizang, Yunnan [Bhutan, India, Kashmir, Myanmar, Nepal, Sikkim, Thailand, Vietnam].


多花距药姜 duo hua ju yao jiang

Pseudostems purplish, 45–55 cm. Leaves ± sessile; ligule 5–6 mm, membranous, apex rounded or truncate; leaf blade lanceolate or oblanceolate, 10–20 × 1.5–4 cm, glabrous, base subrounded or attenuate, apex caudate. Spikes 15–20- or more flowered; bracts green, oblong, shorter than calyx. Flowers orange. Calyx clavate, to 2 cm, apex 2-toothed, glabrous. Corolla tube ca. 2.5 cm; lobes ca. 1.2 cm. Lateral staminodes petaloid. Labellum ca. 2.5 cm, margin crisped, apex 2-cleft. Capsule red, ca. 6 mm in diam. Seeds angled; aril white, small. Fl. Jun.

Forest floors; 1700–2500 m. S Xizang (Nyalam Xian) [N India, ?Nepal, Sikkim].