
叶属 zhong ye shu

Phyllodes Loureiro, nom. rej.

Rhizomes creeping. Basal leaves 1 or more; cauline leaf 1 or absent; leaf sheath and petiole long. Inflorescences borne basally or above an elongate internode on leafy shoots, subtended by a cauline leaf or a reduced, bladeless sheath, compound, capitate, often with additional spikes borne in axes of basal bracts of initially produced spike and later additional ones in basal bracts of secondary spikes, often in a very compact, congested group of few to many small spikes; bracts spirally arranged, often shredding into fibers after anthesis, at least at apex. Flower pairs 2 to many per bract. Sepals usually longer than corolla tube, membranous. Corolla tube proximally ± solid, distally hollow; lobes 3, oblong, subequal. Outer staminodes 2, obovate, staminode tube longer than corolla tube; callose staminode wholly callose, not petaloid at apex. Style curved after tripping; stigma enlarged, blunted. Fruit globose to ellipsoid, dehiscence, often late dehiscence; pericarp hard. Seeds 1–3; aril membranous.

About 20 species: tropical Asia; five species (one endemic) in China.

1a. Bracts with a spinescent acumen at apex ................................................................. 1. P. placentarium

1b. Bracts without a spinescent acumen at apex.

2a. Bracts 3.5–5 cm, apex soon withering; flowers yellowish ........................................ 2. P. oliganthum

2b. Bracts 2–3 cm, apex not withering; flowers white, yellow-orange, or purple.

3a. Bracts wholly shredding into fibers after anthesis; flowers white .................................................. 3. P. hainanense

3b. Bracts apically shredding into fibers after anthesis; flowers not white.

4a. Leaf blade oblong-ovate to oblong, 25–50 × 10–12 cm; inflorescence heads ca. 5 cm in diam. ........................ 4. P. rheedei

4b. Leaf blade narrowly ovate, 35–45 × 6–8 cm; inflorescence heads ca. 3 cm in diam. ........................... 5. P. tonkinense


尖苞叶 jian bao zhong ye

Phyllodes placentaria Loureiro, Fl. Cochinch. 1: 13. 1790; Phrynium parviflorum Roxburgh; P. sinicum Miquel.

Plants 1–2 m tall. Basal leaf 1(or 2); leaf sheath 3–50 cm. Cauline leaf 1; leaf sheath 3–5 cm; petiole 7.5–60 cm, pulvinus 2–7 cm; leaf blade ovate to elliptic, 25–55 × (5.5–)8–20 cm, thinly leathery, glabrous, base rounded with an acute center, apex acuminate. Inflorescence sessile, composed of 4 or 5 or more spikelets, globose, 3–8 cm in diam.; bracts crowded, oblong, 2–2.5 cm, apex with a spinescent acumen. Flowers 2 per bract, white to yellowish white. Sepals linear, ca. 5 mm. Corolla tube ca. 8 mm; lobes elliptic, ca. 5 × 2 mm. Outer staminodes obovate, ca. 5 mm. Ovary glabrous or apically puberulent. Fruit oblong, ca. 1.2 cm; exocarp thin. Seed 1, ellipsoid, ca. 1 cm; aril red. Fl. (Feb–)May–Aug. fr. Aug–Nov.

Wet shaded places in forests, often in valleys along streams; near sea level to 1500 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, SE Xizang (Midog Xian), S Yunnan [Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam].


少花叶 shao hua zhong ye


Plants ca. 1 m tall. Basal leaves several; cauline leaf 1; leaf sheath strigose; petiole pulvinus 3–4 cm; leaf blade oblong, 25–45 × 8–14 cm, glabrous, base rounded to subrounded and shortly and abruptly attenuate, apex acuminate to caudate. Inflorescence pyramidal, composed of several clustered spikes, capitate, 7–8 cm in diam.; peduncle 2.5–6 cm; bracts oblong-ovate, 2–3 cm, glabrous, wholly shredding into fibers after anthesis. Flowers white; pedicel ca. 5 mm. Sepals oblanceolate, 1.1–1.3 cm. Corolla tube ca. 7 mm; lobes obovate-oblong, ca. 7 mm. Outer staminodes equaling corolla tube. Ovary ca. 2.5 mm, angled, densely golden yellow villous. Fruit white, trigonous obpyramidal, 0.8–1 × 1–1.2 cm, villous. Seeds 3. Fl. and fr. Jul–Oct.

Valleys; ca. 1600 m. Guangdong, Hainan.


海南叶 hai nan zhong ye

Plants ca. 1 m tall. Basal leaves several; cauline leaf 1; leaf sheath strigose; petiole pulvinus 3–4 cm; leaf blade oblong, 25–45 × 8–14 cm, glabrous, base rounded to subrounded and shortly and abruptly attenuate, apex acuminate to caudate. Inflorescence pedunculate, composed of several clustered spikes, capitatum, 7–8 cm in diam.; peduncle 2.5–6 cm; bracts oblong-ovate, 2–3 cm, glabrous, wholly shredding into fibers after anthesis. Flowers white; pedicel ca. 5 mm. Sepals ovate, 1.1–1.3 cm. Corolla tube ca. 7 mm; lobes obovate-oblong, ca. 7 mm. Outer staminodes equaling corolla tube. Ovary ca. 2.5 mm, angled, densely golden yellow villous. Fruit white, trigonous obpyramidal, 0.8–1 × 1–1.2 cm, villous. Seeds 3. Fl. and fr. Jul–Oct.


叶 zhong ye

Pontederia ovata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 288. 1753; Phry-
Phrynium capitatum Willdenow (1797), nom. illeg. (included Pontederia ovata); Phrynium ovatum (Linnaeus) Druce (1914), not Nees & Martius (1823).

Plants ca. 1 m tall. Rhizomes tuberous. Basal leaves several; cauline leaf 1; petiole to 60 cm, pulvinus 3–7 cm, glabrous; leaf blade ovate-oblong to oblong, 25–50 × 10–12 cm, glabrous, base acute, apex shortly acuminate. Inflorescence sessile, capitate, ca. 5 cm in diam.; bracts purple-red, oblong-lanceolate, 2–3 cm, apex initially acute, shredding into fibers after anthesis. Flower pairs 3 per bract, sessile. Sepals linear, ca. 1 cm, sericeous. Corolla tube violet, shorter than calyx; lobes dark red, oblong-ovate. Outer staminodes light red, obovate, slightly corrugated; cucullate and callose staminodes yellowish, shorter than outer staminodes. Ovary sericeous. Fruit dark red, shiny, pyriform, ca. 1 cm, slightly 3-angled; exocarp hard. Seeds 2 or 3, shallowly grooved. Fl. May–Jul.

Wet shaded places in dense forests; 100–1400 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, S Yunnan [India, Vietnam].


云南叶 yun nan zhong ye

Plants ca. 1 m tall. Basal leaves 1 to several; cauline leaf 1; leaf sheath to 27 cm; petiole 3–25 cm, pulvinus 1–2 cm, puberulent; leaf blade lanceolate, 35–45 × 6–8 cm; adaxially glabrous, abaxially velvety along midvein, base attenuate, apex long acuminate. Inflorescence composed of 4 or 5 crowded spikes, capitate, ca. 3 cm in diam.; bracts dark green, ovate, ca. 1.5 × 1 cm, apex obtuse, densely pilose, soon shredding into fibers. Flowers yellow-orange or purple; pedicel ca. 5 mm, velvety. Sepals linear, ca. 7 mm, membranous, apex hirsute. Corolla lobes reflexed, elliptic, 4–5 mm. Staminodes ca. 3 mm. Ovary hirsute. Fruit brown, trigonous, 0.6–0.7 × ca. 1.2 cm, velvety, both ends compressed. Seeds 3, ca. 5 × 5 mm, 3- or 4-angled, truncate; aril small. Fl. Apr–Aug, fr. Aug–Oct.

Wet forests. SE Yunnan (Pingbian Miao Zu Zizhixian) [Vietnam].