

**15. GOMPHOCARPUS** R. Brown, Mem. Wern. Nat. Hist. Soc. 1: 37. 1810 (preprint).

钉头果属 *ding tou guo shu*

Shrubs or subshrubs, erect. Leaves opposite or whorled, short petiolate. Cymes extra-axillary, umbel-like, pendent, many flowered. Calyx glands 5 or more. Corolla rotate, deeply lobed; lobes patent or reflexed, valvate. Corona lobes 5, inserted on gynostegium, erect, hood-shaped, apex with 2 recurved or straight adaxial cusps, hood not appendaged. Filaments connate into a tube; anther appendages incurved; pollinia 2 per pollinarium, oblong, pendulous. Stigma head depressed. Follicles broadly ovoid, inflated, pericarp usually with long, soft spines or bristles. Seeds oblong.

About 50 species: tropical Africa, two in China.

- 1a. Leaves glabrous; corona lobes dark; follicles acuminate, long beaked ..... 1. *G. fruticosus*  
1b. Leaves sparsely pubescent adaxially, hairy along midvein abaxially; corona lobes white; follicles blunt, beakless ..... 2. *G. physocarpus*

**1. *Gomphocarpus fruticosus*** (Linnaeus) W. T. Aiton, Hortus Kew. ed. 2, 2: 80. 1811.

钉头果 *ding tou guo*

*Asclepias fruticosa* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 216. 1753.

Shrubs to 2 m tall. Stems puberulent. Leaves opposite, short petiolate; leaf blade linear or linear-lanceolate, 6–10 cm × 5–8 mm, glabrous, apex acuminate, margin revolute; lateral veins inconspicuous. Cymes 4–6 cm. Flower buds globose. Sepals lanceolate, puberulent. Corolla white; lobes broadly ovate or elliptic, reflexed, ciliate. Corona lobes dark, hood-like. Follicles inflated, 5–6 × ca. 3 cm, apex acuminate, long beaked, spines of pericarp soft, ca. 1 cm. Seeds ovate; coma ca. 3 cm. Fl. summer.  $2n = 22$ .

Cultivated for medicine in N China, Guangxi, and Yunnan [Africa; widely introduced].

Decoction of all parts is used as a medicine for stomach trouble. The leaves are used against pulmonary tuberculosis. Floss from seeds is used for stuffing pillows.

**2. *Gomphocarpus physocarpus*** E. Meyer, Comm. Pl. Afr. Austr. 202. 1838.

钝钉头果 *dun ding tou guo*

Shrubs 1–2 m tall, few stemmed. Young stems and inflorescences pubescent. Petiole ca. 1 cm; leaf blade narrowly lanceolate, 5–10 × 0.6–1.5 cm, adaxially sparsely pubescent, abaxially hairy along midvein, both ends tapering or acute. Peduncle 2–4.5 cm, short hairy. Pedicel 1.5–2.5 cm. Sepals lanceolate. Corolla white, 1.4–2 cm in diam.; lobes ovate, 8–10 mm, reflexed, margin densely bearded. Corona lobes white, inner margin of hoodlike apex with 2, short, recurved or straight cusps, with a large adaxial nectary. Follicles obliquely ovoid to subglobose, 6–8 × 2.5–5 cm, base oblique, apex rounded, beakless; pericarp with soft bristles or spines, minutely tomentose when young, glabrescent when ripe. Seeds ovate, ca. 5 mm; coma shining white, ca. 5 mm.  $2n = 22$ .

Cultivated for medicine in S Guangdong and Hainan [Africa; widely introduced].

