

SPHENOCLEACEAE

尖瓣花科 jian ban hua ke

Hong Deyuan (洪德元)¹; Nicholas J. Turland²

Herbs annual, without latex. Leaves alternate, simple. Inflorescence a dense terminal or leaf-opposed spike, bracteate and bracteolate. Flowers sessile, bisexual, actinomorphic. Calyx epigynous, 5-lobed. Corolla epigynous, tubular, 5-lobed to middle. Stamens 5, inserted at proximal part of corolla tube, alternate with corolla lobes; filament extremely short; anther 2-celled. Ovary inferior, 2-loculed; ovules numerous, anatropous; placentation axile; stigma obscurely 2-lobed, lobes subcapitate. Fruit a capsule, oblate, circumscissile. Seeds numerous, oblong.

One species: widely distributed in Old World tropics, including China; introduced in New World tropics.

Sphenocleaceae are only superficially similar to Campanulaceae s.l., and molecular data place them securely in the Solanales. They lack latex; the style is short and without hairs; there is no secondary pollen presentation; and fruit dehiscence is circumscissile, immediately inside the calyx.

Hong De-yuan. 1983. Campanulaceae (Sphenocleoidae). *In*: Hong De-yuan, ed., *Fl. Reipubl. Popularis Sin.* 73(2): 176–177.

1. SPHENOCLEA Gaertner, *Fruct. Sem. Pl.* 1: 113. 1788, nom. cons.

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Gaertnera Retzius (1791), not Schreber (1789), nor Lamarck (1792, nom. cons.), nor *Gaertneria* Medikus (1789); *Pongati* Adanson; *Pongatium* Jussieu; *Rapinia* Loureiro.

Morphological characters and geographic distribution are the same as those of the family.

1. *Sphenoclea zeylanica* Gaertner, *Fruct. Sem. Pl.* 1: 113. 1788.

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Gaertnera pangati Retzius; *Pongatium indicum* Lamarck, nom. illeg. superfl.; *P. spongiosum* Blanco; *P. zeylanicum* (Gaertner) Kuntze; *Rapinia herbacea* Loureiro; *Sphenoclea dalzielii* N. E. Brown; *S. pongatium* Candolle, nom. illeg. superfl.

Plants glabrous throughout. Stems erect, usually branched, 20–70 cm tall, to 1 cm in diam. Leaves petiolate; petiole to 1 cm; leaf blade abaxially gray or green, adaxially green, long

elliptic, elliptic-lanceolate, or ovate-lanceolate, 2–9 × 0.5–2 cm, margin entire. Spikes 1–4 cm; bracts ovate, apex acuminate; bracteoles broadly linear. Flowers less than 2 mm. Calyx lobes ovate-orbicular. Corolla white, ca. 1.5 mm, shallowly lobed; lobes patent. Capsule 2–4 mm in diam. Seeds brown-yellow, ca. 0.5 mm. Fl. and fr. all year.

Paddy fields, wet places. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Jiangxi, Taiwan, S Yunnan (Xishuangbanna) [Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; NE and tropical Africa, SW Asia, Madagascar; introduced in New World tropics].

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