

LOWIACEAE

兰花蕉科 lan hua jiao ke

Wu Delin (吴德邻 Wu Te-lin)¹; W. John Kress²

Herbs rhizomatous. Stem very short. Leaves basal, distichous; petiole well developed, base sheathing; leaf blade lanceolate or oblong, with several pairs of longitudinal veins parallel to a distinct midvein. Inflorescence axillary or arising from rhizomes, cymose or reduced to a solitary flower, bracteate. Flowers bisexual, zygomorphic. Sepals 3, lanceolate. Petals 3, very unequal; middle petal enlarged to form a labellum; lateral petals small, apex often aristate. Stamens 5; filaments short; anthers 2-celled, dehiscing by longitudinal slits. Ovary inferior, 3-loculed, apex elongate; ovules numerous per locule; placentation axile. Style slender; stigmas 3, lacinate. Fruit a capsule, 3-valved, loculicidal. Seeds numerous, arillate; aril 3-lobed.

One genus and ten species: Cambodia, China, Indonesia (Borneo), Laos, Malaysia, Vietnam; two species (endemic) in China.

Wu Te-lin & Chen Sen-jen. 1981. Musaceae subfam. Lowioideae. *In*: Wu Te-lin, ed., *Fl. Reipubl. Popularis Sin.* 16(2): 19–21.

1. ORCHIDANTHA N. E. Brown, *Gard. Chron.*, ser. 2, 26: 519. 1886.

兰花蕉属 lan hua jiao shu

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

- 1a. Sepals ca. 6×0.7 cm; labellum linear-lanceolate, ca. 5.5 cm, not constricted at middle 1. *O. insularis*
1b. Sepals $9.5\text{--}17 \times 1.5\text{--}3.2$ cm; labellum linear, $9\text{--}17 \times 1.5\text{--}3.2$ cm, slightly constricted at middle 2. *O. chinensis*

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1. *Orchidantha insularis* T. L. Wu, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 9: 340. 1964.

海南兰花蕉 hai nan lan hua jiao

Plants to 45 cm tall. Rhizomes decumbent. Petiole 14–25 cm, furrowed, sheathing below middle; leaf blade narrowly elliptic, 19–23 × 5.5–6.5 cm, transverse veins forming squares, base acute, apex acuminate, acumen small. Bracts purple, oblong-lanceolate, ca. 4 cm. Flower solitary, arising from rhizome. Sepals linear-lanceolate, ca. 6 × 0.7 cm. Labellum linear-lanceolate, ca. 5.5 × 0.6 cm, not constricted at middle; lateral petals brown-yellow, ca. 2 cm, apex with small, purple spots and an arista ca. 4 mm. Anthers ca. 9 mm. Ovary with apical, elongate portion ca. 4 cm. Style linear, ca. 9 mm; stigmas denticulate at apex, abaxially with a V-shaped appendix, 1 stigma ca. 5 mm, other 2 shorter. Capsule globose, ca. 1 cm in diam., apex rostrate, ca. 5 mm. Seeds hemispheric, ca. 4 mm in diam. Fr. Jun.

- Forests; ca. 100 m. Hainan.

2. *Orchidantha chinensis* T. L. Wu, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 9: 340. 1964.

兰花蕉 lan hua jiao

Plants 45–100 cm tall. Rhizomes decumbent. Petiole 14–50 cm; leaf blade elliptic-lanceolate, 22–50 × 5.5–11 cm, base cuneate, slightly decurrent, apex acuminate. Bracts oblong, 3.5–10 cm, distal ones larger. Sepals oblong-lanceolate, 9.5–17 × 1.5–3.2 cm. Labellum linear, 9–17 × 0.8–2.3 cm, slightly constricted at middle, apex acuminate and aristate; lateral petals oblong, 2–3.2 cm, apex with an arista ca. 5 mm. Anthers ca. 1 cm. Ovary with apical, elongate portion 2–3.5 cm. Style ca. 1 cm; stigmas denticulate at apex, abaxially with a V-shaped appendix, longer stigma ca. 8 mm. Capsule dark purple, ca. 1.5 cm in diam. Fl. Mar–Jun, fr. Jul–Oct.

- Mountain valleys; 200–400 m. Guangdong, S Guangxi.

- 1a. Sepals ca. 9.5 × 1.5–2 cm; labellum ca. 9 × 0.8 cm, lateral petals ca. 2 cm 2a. var. *chinensis*
1b. Sepals 12–17 × 1.9–3.2 cm; labellum 12–17 × 2–2.3 cm, lateral petals 2.8–3.2 cm 2b. var. *longisepala*

2a. *Orchidantha chinensis* var. *chinensis*

兰花蕉(原变种) lan hua jiao (yuan bian zhong)

Sepals ca. 9.5 × 1.5–2 cm. Labellum ca. 9 × 0.8 cm; lateral petals ca. 2 cm.

- Mountain valleys; ca. 200 m. Guangdong.

2b. *Orchidantha chinensis* var. *longisepala* (D. Fang) T. L. Wu, Novon 7: 440. 1997.

长萼兰花蕉 chang e lan hua jiao

Orchidantha longisepala D. Fang in D. Fang & D. H. Qin, Guihaia 16: 4. 1996.

Sepals 12–17 × 1.9–3.2 cm. Labellum 12–17 × 2–2.3 cm; lateral petals 2.8–3.2 cm.

- Mountain valleys; ca. 400 m. S Guangxi.

