

TETRACENTRACEAE

水青树科 shui qing shu ke

Fu Dezhi (傅德志)¹; Bruce Bartholomew²

Trees, evergreen, with vessel-less wood. Terminal bud at first enclosed by stipule, later free. Stipule adnate to petiole. Leaves simple, alternate on long, 1-year-old branchlets or single and subterminal on short, many-year-old branchlets, marked by crowded concentric scars from petiole bases and bud scales from former years; leaf blade palmately veined. Inflorescences catkinlike multiflowered spikes, borne near base of petiole at apex of short branchlets. Flowers bisexual, in whorls of 4 alternating on inflorescence, 4-merous. Sepals 4. Petals absent. Stamens 4, opposite sepals; anthers basifixed. Ovary superior; carpels 4, alternating with stamens, united at base, each 1-loculed; placenta 2 per locule, parallel along the locule ventral suture; ovules (5 or)6, attached near placenta middle, horizontal at anthesis. Seeds with oily endosperm; embryo minute.

One species: E Asia.

This family has not yet been treated in FRPS.

1. TETRACENTRON Oliver, Hooker's Icon. Pl. 19: t. 1892. 1889.

水青树属 shui qing shu shu

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

1. *Tetracentron sinense* Oliver, Hooker's Icon. Pl. 19: t. 1892. 1889.

水青树 shui qing shu

Tetracentron sinense var. *himalense* H. Hara & Kanai.

Trees to 40 m tall, 1–1.5 m d.b.h, glabrous. Branchlets grayish brown; bud ca. 1 cm. Stipule narrowly oblong, ca. 1 cm. Petiole 2–4 cm; leaf blade broadly ovate, 7–16 × 4–12 cm, papery, abaxially paler, base cordate to rarely truncate rounded, margin serrulate, apex acuminate; palmate veins 5–7. Inflorescences 6–15 cm, short pedunculate, 80–125-flowered but some aborted by anthesis. Floral subtending bracts 0.3–0.5 × 0.4–0.7 mm. Flowers yellowish green, sessile, 1–2 mm in diam. Sepals ovate-orbicular, 1–2 mm, margin entire, apex rounded. Stamens exserted; filaments subterete to slightly flattened, 1.5–3 mm; anthers 0.4–0.8 mm, locules lateral, each theca dehiscent by a lateral slit, connective truncate-rounded at apex. Carpels ca. 1.5 mm at anthesis. Styles at first erect and connivent, becoming recurved at anthesis, subulate; stigma along the ventral surface of the style. Fruit brown, follicles 2.5–5 mm, dehiscence loculicidal, persistent style pointing toward follicle base due to expansion of follicle ventral side. Seeds 4–6 per follicle, spindle-shaped, 2–3 mm, compressed, short winged at each end. Fl. Apr–Jul, fr. Jul–Oct. $2n = 48$

Along streams or forest margins in broad-leaved evergreen forests and mixed evergreen-deciduous forests; 1100–3500 m. S Gansu, Guizhou, SW Henan, W Hubei, NW and SW Hunan, S Shaanxi, Sichuan, S and SE Xizang, Yunnan [Bhutan, NE India, N Myanmar, E Nepal, N Vietnam].

This species is expected to be found in both N Guangxi (Yuecheng Ling) and Sikkim.

¹ Herbarium, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 20 Nanxincun, Xiangshan, Beijing 100093, People's Republic of China.

² Botany Department, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118-4599, U.S.A.