

7. ACTAEA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 504. 1753.

类叶升麻属 lei ye sheng ma shu

Li Liangqian (李良千); Michio Tamura

Herbs perennial. Rhizome robust, creeping, with numerous fibrous roots. Stems simple, erect. Basal leaves scaly; cauline leaves alternate, 2 or 3 × ternate, long petiolate. Inflorescence racemose, simple or branched. Flowers small, actinomorphic. Sepals usually 4, petaloid, white, caducous. Petals 1–6, spatulate, yellow, smaller than sepals, without a nectary. Stamens numerous; filaments narrowly linear-filarious; anthers yellowish white, ovate-orbicular. Carpels 1; ovary ellipsoid, glabrous, stigma sessile, compressed, 2-lobed. Fruit a berry, purple-black, red, or white when ripe, subglobose. Seeds several, ovate, brown or black.

About eight species: N temperate regions; two species in China.

In a recent phylogenetic study (Compton et al., Taxon 47: 593–634. 1998), *Actaea* was reclassified to include *Cimicifuga* and *Souliea*. However, for the present account, as in FRPS, the authors have maintained the three genera as distinct.

Further work is needed to determine the placement of *Actaea taiwanensis* J. Compton et al. (Taxon 47: 624. 1998; *Cimicifuga taiwanensis* (J. Compton et al.) Luferov).

- 1a. Pedicels thickened at fruiting, ca. 1 mm in diam.; fruit black 1. *A. asiatica*
- 1b. Pedicels not thickened at fruiting, ca. 0.6 mm in diam.; fruit red, sometimes white 2. *A. erythrocarpa*

1. *Actaea asiatica* H. Hara, J. Jap. Bot. 15: 313. 1939.

类叶升麻 lei ye sheng ma

Actaea acuminata Wallich subsp. *asiatica* (H. Hara) Luferov; *A. spicata* Linnaeus var. *asiatica* (H. Hara) S. H. Li & Y. H. Huang.

Rhizome black-brown, with numerous slender fibrous roots. Stems 30–80 cm tall, terete, 4–6(–9) mm in diam., unbranched, basally glabrous, apically white pubescent. Leaves 2 or 3, proximal cauline leaves 3 × ternately pinnate, long petiolate; petiole 10–17 cm; leaf blade triangular, to 27 cm wide, abaxially glabrescent, adaxially subglabrous; terminal leaflet ovate to broadly ovate-rhombic, 4–10 × 2–8 cm, 3-fid, margin sharply serrate; lateral leaflets ovate to obliquely ovate. Distal cauline leaves similar to proximal ones, but smaller. Inflorescence racemose, 2.5–4(–6) cm, to 17 cm at fruiting; rachis and pedicels densely white or gray pubescent; bracts linear-lanceolate, ca. 2 mm. Pedicels 5–8 mm. Sepals obovate, 2.5–3 mm. Petals spatulate, 2–2.5 mm. Filaments 3–5 mm; anthers ca. 0.7 mm. Pedicels at fruiting 1–1.5 cm, ca. 1 mm in diam. Fruit solitary, purple-black, ca. 6 mm in diam. Seeds ca. 6, dark brown, ovate, ca. 3 × 2 mm. Fl. May–Jun, fr. Jul–Sep. $2n = 16^*$.

Forests; 300–3100 m. Gansu, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Hubei, Jilin, Liaoning, S Nei Mongol, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Sichuan, E Xizang, Yunnan [Japan, Korea, Russia (Far East)].

2. *Actaea erythrocarpa* Fischer in Fischer & C. A. Meyer, Index Sem. Hort. Petrop. 1: 20. 1835.

红果类叶升麻 hong guo lei ye sheng ma

Actaea spicata Linnaeus var. *erythrocarpa* (Fischer) Turczaninow ex Ledebour.

Rhizome black-brown, with numerous slender fibrous roots. Stems 60–70 cm tall, terete, 4–6 mm in diam., basally glabrous, apically pubescent. Leaves 2 or 3, proximal cauline leaves 3 × ternately pinnate, long petiolate; petiole to 24 cm; leaf blade triangular, to 25 cm wide, abaxially sparsely white pubescent or subglabrous at veins, adaxially subglabrous; terminal leaflet ovate to broadly ovate, 6–10 × 5–8 cm, 3-fid, margin sharply serrate; lateral leaflets obliquely ovate, irregularly 2- or 3-parted. Inflorescence racemose, ca. 6 cm, to 10 cm at fruiting; rachis and pedicels densely pubescent; bracts linear-lanceolate, 2–6 mm. Pedicels 0.5–1.5 cm. Flowers 8–10 mm, crowded. Sepals obovate, ca. 2.5 mm. Petals spatulate, ca. 2.5 mm, proximal part unguiculate, apex rounded. Filaments 4–5 mm; anthers ca. 0.7 mm. Pedicels at fruiting ca. 0.6 mm in diam. Fruit red, rarely white, 5–6 mm in diam., glabrous. Seeds ca. 8, ± black, ca. 3 × 2 mm, glabrous. Fl. May–Jun, fr. Jul–Aug. $2n = 16^*$.

Forests; 700–1500 m. Hebei, Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Shanxi, ?Yunnan [Japan; Mongolia, Russia (Far East, Siberia); Europe].

