

116. TRIFIDACANTHUS Merrill, Philipp. J. Sci., C, 12: 269. 1917.

三叉刺属 san cha ci shu

Huang Puhua (黄普华 Huang Pu-hwa); Hiroyoshi Ohashi

Shrubs, erect, spinose. Spines rigid, straight, sharp, 3-fid. Leaves 1-foliolate, entire; stipules scarious, striate; stipels minute. Racemes axillary, short; bracts broadly ovate, minute; bracteoles absent. Calyx membranous; tube short, 5-lobed; lobes ovate-lanceolate, lower lobes 3, upper 2 lobes connate. Corolla purple; standard broadly obovate, base cuneate, not or very shortly clawed; wings narrowly elliptic; keel slightly falcate, apex obtuse. Stamens diadelphous. Ovary linear, ca. 6-ovuled. Legume (3–)5–7-jointed; upper suture straight or slightly undulate, lower suture deeply undulate between articles.

One species: China, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam.

1. *Trifidacanthus unifoliolatus* Merrill, Philipp. J. Sci., C, 12: 269. 1917.

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Desmodium horridum Steenis; *D. unifoliolatum* (Merrill) Steenis.

Shrubs, 1–2 m tall. Spines 3–5 cm. Leaves alternate; petiole 2–4 mm, pubescent; blade elliptic or oblong-elliptic to linear-oblong, 1.5–6 × 0.7–1.5 cm, nearly leathery, distinctly reticulate veined, both surfaces glabrous, apex rounded, mucronate, sometimes emarginate. Racemes ca. 3 cm, sparsely pilose;

bracts numerous around base of rachis, striate. Pedicels ca. 5 mm, often fascicled at node of rachis. Flowers ca. 1 cm. Calyx ca. 3 mm, sparsely pubescent; upper lobe triangular-ovate. Ovary slightly pubescent; style glabrous. Legume stalked, straight, flat and thin, (2–)3–4 cm, pubescent, reticulate veined; lower suture indented, upper suture straight or slightly undulate; articles 6–7 × ca. 4 mm, lateral surfaces reticulate veined. Fl. Apr–Jul, fr. Sep–Oct.

Dry thickets of savannas, sparse forests of riverbanks; ca. 200 m. Hainan [Indonesia (Lesser Sunda Islands), Philippines, Vietnam].

DESMODIEAE