

## 16. METAPLEXIS R. Brown, Mem. Wern. Nat. Hist. Soc. 1: 48. 1810.

萝□属 *luo mo shu*

*Aphanostelma* Schlechter.

Lianas or scandent shrubs. Leaves opposite, long petiolate. Inflorescences long pedunculate, racemelike with cymes laxly arranged along well-developed rachis. Calyx with 5 basal glands. Corolla subtubulate; lobes longer than tube, twisted to left. Corona ringlike, inserted at base of gynostegium, rim 5-lobed; lobes hoodlike. Filaments connate into a short tube; anther appendages incurved; pollinia 2 per pollinarium, oblong or ovate-oblong, pendulous. Stigma head long beaked, 2-cleft or entire, exserted beyond anther appendages. Follicles fusiform or oblong, pericarp muricate, rugose, or smooth. Seeds ovate.

About six species: E Asia, two in China.

- 1a. Leaf base with a narrow deep sinus, basal lobes often overlapping; flower buds conical; corolla hairy inside; stigma head long and slender, exserted out of corolla tube; follicles glabrous, smooth ..... 1. *M. japonica*
- 1b. Leaf base with a broad sinus; flower buds broadly ovate; corolla glabrous; stigma head conical, not exserted from corolla tube; follicles puberulent, muricate, or rugose ..... 2. *M. hemsleyana*

**1. *Metaplexis japonica*** (Thunberg) Makino, Bot. Mag. (Tokyo) 17: 87. 1903.

萝□ *luo mo*

*Pergularia japonica* Thunberg, Fl. Jap. 1: 11. 1784; *Metaplexis chinensis* Decaisne; *M. stauntonii* Schultes; *Urostelma chinensis* Bunge.

Lianas to 8 m. Young stems densely pubescent, glabrescent. Petiole 3–6 cm; leaf blade deep green adaxially, glaucous abaxially, ovate-cordate, basal lobes rounded, recurved and sometimes overlapping, sinus 1–2 cm deep and often very narrow, glabrous or puberulent when young; lateral veins 10–12 pairs. Inflorescences usually 13–20-flowered; peduncle 6–12 cm; bracteoles membranous, lanceolate, ca. 3 mm. Pedicel ca. 8 mm, puberulent. Flower buds conical, apex acute. Sepals lanceolate, 5–7 × ca. 2 mm, puberulent. Corolla white, sometimes with purplish stripes; tube short; lobes lanceolate, slightly longer than sepals, spreading, reflexed at apex, conspicuously pilose inside. Stigma head conspicuously exserted, long and slender with 2-fid apex. Follicles fusiform, 8–9 × ca. 2 cm, smooth, glabrous. Seeds ca. 5 × 3 mm, flat, margin membranous; coma silky white, ca. 1.5 cm. Fl. Jul-Aug, fr. Sep-Dec.  $2n = 22, 24^*$ .

Thickets, forest edges, stream banks. Throughout China except for Hainan and Xinjiang [Japan, Korea, adjacent Russia].

The stems and roots are used as medicine for traumatic injury, snake bites, impotence, and infantile malnutrition due to intestinal parasites.

**2. *Metaplexis hemsleyana*** Oliver, Hooker's Icon. Pl. 20: Pl. 1970. 1891.

华萝□ *hua luo mo*

*Holostemma sinense* Hemsley, J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 26: 103. 1889; *Aphanostelma chinensis* Schlechter ex H. Léveillé; *Metaplexis japonica* (Thunberg) Makino var. *platyloba* Handel-Mazzetti; *M. rostellata* Turczaninow; *M. sinensis* (Hemsley) Hu.

Lianas to 5 m. Stems slender pubescent along 1 line, densely pubescent at nodes. Petiole to 5 cm; leaf blade deep green adaxially, glaucous abaxially, ovate-cordate, 5–13 × 2.5–10 cm, membranous, base cordate, basal lobes rounded, recurved, sinus 1–3 cm deep and always wide and rounded;

lateral veins ca. 5 pairs. Cymes extra-axillary, racemelike, rachis usually simple, 6–16-flowered; peduncle 4–6 cm. Pedicel 5–10 mm, puberulent. Flower buds broadly ovate, apex obtuse or rounded. Sepals ovate-lanceolate, half as long as corolla. Corolla 0.9–1.2 cm in diam.; lobes broadly oblong, ca. 5 mm, glabrous. Stigma head narrowly conical, usually just exserted from anther appendages. Follicles oblong, 7–8 × ca. 2 cm, pubescent and muricate or rugose. Seeds ovate, ca. 6 × 4 mm, marginate, denticulate at base; coma white sericeous, ca. 3 cm. Fl. Jul-Sep, fr. Sep-Dec.

• Moist bushland, valleys. Guangxi, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Yunnan.

