

15. *AGLAONEMA* Schott, Wiener Z. Kunst 1829: 892. 1829.

广东万年青属 *guang dong wan nian qing shu*

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Herbs, evergreen, sometimes robust. Stem epigeal, erect to decumbent and mostly unbranched or creeping and often branched, internodes green, becoming brown with age, smooth, often rooting at nodes when decumbent. Leaves several, forming an apical crown; petiole shorter than leaf blade, sheath usually long; leaf blade often with striking, silvery and pale green variegated patterns, ovate-elliptic or narrowly elliptic, rarely broadly ovate or sublinear, base often unequal, attenuate to rounded, rarely cordate; primary lateral veins pinnate, often weakly differentiated, running into marginal vein, higher order venation parallel-pinnate. Inflorescences 1–9 per each floral sympodium; peduncle shorter or longer than petioles, sometimes deflexed in fruit. Spathe caducous, persistent, or marcescent, erect, green to whitish, boat-shaped to convolute, not differentiated into tube and blade, ovate to ± globose, slightly to strongly decurrent, often apiculate. Spadix cylindrical to clavate, shorter or longer than spathe, stipe long to almost absent; female zone rather few flowered, either separated by staminodes or contiguous with, and much shorter than, male zone; male zone fertile to apex, rarely with staminodes basally. Flowers unisexual, naked. Female flowers: ovary subglobose, 1-loculed; ovule 1, anatropous, broadly ovoid; funicle very short; placenta basal; stylar region short, thick; stigma broad, disciform, concave centrally. Male flowers: stamens free, not forming clear floral groups; filaments usually distinct, connective thickened; thecae opposite, obovoid, short, dehiscing by apical pore or reniform transverse slit. Fruit an ellipsoid berry, outer layer fleshy green but turning yellow, rarely white and finally red. Seed solitary, ellipsoid, almost as large as berry; testa thin, ± smooth; integument inconspicuous; embryo large; endosperm absent.

Twenty-one species: tropical and subtropical Asia; two species in China.

Aglaonema ovatum Engler (Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 25: 21. 1898) is abundant in N Laos next to the Chinese border and so is expected to be found eventually in SW China.

Many species are widely cultivated in gardens as evergreen ornamental plants.

- 1a. Spadix shorter than spathe, ca. 2/3 spathe length, male zone of spadix cylindrical, 20–30 × 3–4 mm 1. *A. modestum*
1b. Spadix equaling to longer than spathe, male zone of spadix conic, ca. 23 × 9–10 mm 2. *A. simplex*

1. *Aglaonema modestum* Schott ex Engler in A. Candolle & C. Candolle, Monogr. Phan. 2: 442. 1879.

广东万年青 *guang dong wan nian qing*

Plants erect. Stems green, 40–70 cm, 1.5–2 cm in diam. Leaves mostly crowded at stem apex; petiole green, 5–20 cm, sheathing for more than 1/2 length; leaf blade pale green abaxially, green adaxially, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, base obtuse or broadly cuneate, apex acuminate; primary lateral veins 4 or 5 per side, ascending and arching, secondary ones indistinct, parallel to primary veins. Peduncle (5–)10–12.5 cm. Spathe oblong-lanceolate, (5.5–)6–7 × 1.5–2 cm, apex long acuminate. Spadix cylindrical, ca. 2/3 of spathe length, with a stipe ca. 10 mm; female zone 5–8 mm; ovary subglobose; style short; stigma disciform; male zone elongate, 2–3 cm × 3–4 mm; stamen apex truncate, quadrangular; anthers dehiscent by a pore. Berry green to yellow-red, red when ripe, oblong, ca. 20 × 8 mm. Seed oblong, ca. 1.7 cm. Fl. May, fr. Oct–Nov.

Dense forests, also widely cultivated in gardens as evergreen ornamental plants; 500–1700 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou [N Laos, N Thailand, N Vietnam].

The plant is used externally as a medicine to treat snake and insect bites, hydrophobia, abscesses, and swelling.

2. *Aglaonema simplex* (Blume) Blume, Rumphia 1: 152. 1837.

越南万年青 *yue nan wan nian qing*

Caladium simplex Blume, Catalogus, 103. 1823; *Aglaonema angustifolium* N. E. Brown; *A. birmanicum* J. D. Hooker; *A. fallax* Schott ex Engler; *A. longicuspidatum* Schott; *A. pierreanum* Engler; *A. schottianum* Miquel f. *angustifolium* (N. E. Brown) Engler; *A. siamense* Engler; *A. simplex* f. *angustifolium* (N. E. Brown) R. N. Jervis; *A. tenuipes* Engler; *Scindapsus tonkinensis* K. Krause.

Plants perennial, erect. Stems dark green, cylindrical, 40–80 cm tall, 1–2 cm in diam., rooting at nodes; internodes 2–3 cm, at distal part 5–10 mm; cataphylls early caducous, broadly linear, 4–7 cm, apex abruptly acute. Leaves usually 5 or 6, densely crowded at stem apex; petiole green, 6–15 cm, proximally sheathing; leaf blade initially involute, afterward spreading, pale green abaxially, dark green adaxially, ovate-oblong, 10–25 × 5.5–11 cm, thinly leathery, base truncate-rounded, subcordate, or decurrent, apex caudate-acuminate or abruptly long acuminate; primary lateral veins 6–8 per side, ascending and arching. Peduncle green, 2–6 cm. Spathe initially involute-tubular, afterward opening by a slit, cymbiform, ovoid, 3–4.5 × ca. 1.3 cm. Spadix 2.5–4.5 cm, slightly longer than or equaling spathe; female zone ca. 5 mm; ovary globose; ovule basal; stigma sessile, circular; male zone 2–3 cm; stamens 4; anthers 2-celled. Berry oblong, 12–18 × 7–10 mm. Seed oblong, 11–15 mm. Fl. Apr–Jun, fr. Sep–Oct.

Dense valley forests; below 1500 m. SW Yunnan [Cambodia, India (Nicobar Islands), Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines (Palawan), Thailand, Vietnam].

Nicolson (Smithsonian Contr. Bot. 1: 38–41. 1969) maintained *Aglaonema tenuipes* and *A. simplex* as separate species primarily on inflorescence size and to a much lesser extent on phytogeography (*A. simplex* being a Sundaic element with *A. tenuipes* a N Thai/Indochinese species). However, there is complete introgression between even the extremes of the spathe size, while the presence of populations intermediate between “*A. tenuipes*” and *A. simplex* in the mountainous parts of C and SE Thailand seriously weakens the phytogeographical arguments.

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