

3. POTHOIDIUM Schott, Aroideae, 26. 1856–1857.

假石柑属 jia shi gan shu

Li Heng (李恒 Li Hen); Peter C. Boyce

Shrubs, climbing. Branches extra-axillary. Leaves simple, distichous, petiolate; petiole elongated, leaflike, flattened, veins parallel; leaf blade triangular-lanceolate, short, with parallel veins. Inflorescences in axil of leaves; bractlike cataphylls 1 or 2. Spathe deciduous, short. Spadix cylindric. Flowers bisexual but plants functionally dioecious; tepals 6, with vaulted-truncate apex; stamens 3–6, anthers oval, longitudinally dehiscent; ovary obovoid, 1-loculed, ovule solitary, subbasal, stigma sessile. Berry ovoid, acute. Seed oblong, without endosperm.

One species: China (Taiwan), Indonesia (Maluku, Sulawesi), Philippines.

Pothoidium is similar to *Pothos repens* but differs in being functionally dioecious, by the branching inflorescences, and by its unilocular ovary and solitary ovule. *Pothoidium* has functionally unisexual spadices arranged seemingly in panicles and maturing sequentially. The structure of the fertile shoots is not yet clearly understood; however, it is possible that they are developed by the reduction of all the leaves of a leafy fertile shoot system to minute prophylls and cataphylls and that the panicle-like synflorescence is hence to be regarded as an aggregate structure. *Pothos repens* and *Pothoidium* are vegetatively almost identical. Depauperate flowering specimens of *Pothoidium* greatly resemble robust plants of *Pothos repens*. Interpretation of *Pothoidium* inflorescences suggests that *P. lobbianum* is functionally dioecious. “Male” spadices have flowers with prominently visible anthers and an apparently sterile ovary. “Female” spadices have flowers with a large unilocular fertile ovary and no stamens. Flowers of *Pothos* species are always bisexual with a 3-locular ovary.

1. *Pothoidium lobbianum* Schott, Oesterr. Bot. Wochenbl. 7: 70. 1857.

假石柑 jia shi gan

Climbers. Branches elongated, striate, internodes 7.5–10 mm. Leaves leathery; petiole 7.5–10 × ca. 1 cm, base angustate, apex truncate; leaf blade triangular-lanceolate, much smaller and shorter than petiole, 2.5–4 × ca. 7.5 mm. Inflorescences several to many, borne in a terminal branching system, proximal inflorescences axillary to a foliage leaf, distal ones either subtended by a cataphyll or without a subtending leaf, peduncular axis slender, consisting of 1 to several internodes, sometimes subtended by a prophyll, sometimes also bearing a cataphyll ± halfway up. Spathe occurrence irregular, often absent, widely spreading, linear-lanceolate or broadly ovate, 5–7.5 mm, margins usually revolute, apex acute. Spadix apparently often functionally unisexual, cylindric, 1.5–2.5 cm, sessile to long stipitate when subtended by spathe. Flowers apparently usually unisexual, sometimes bisexual, congested, with a perigone of 6 free tepals; male flowers with well-developed anthers and apparently sterile ovary, stamens 3–6, free, number often varying on a single spadix; female flowers with large fertile ovary and lacking stamens. Berry ca. 1.2 cm × 6 mm. Seed solitary, ovoid. Fl. Feb–May, fr. Jul–Oct.

S Taiwan (Lan Yu) [Indonesia (Maluku, Sulawesi), Philippines].

Fl. China 23: 8–9. 2010.