

6. RHAPHIDOPHORA Hasskarl, Flora 25(Beibl. 2): 11. 1842.

崖角藤属 ya jiao teng shu

Li Heng (李恒 Li Hen); Peter C. Boyce

Lianas, large; raphides numerous on stem and leaf; laticiferous ducts absent. Stems thick, creeping and climbing up trees or over rocks by aid of adhesive roots. Leaves distichous, petiolate; pulvinus short or long; petiole often adaxially grooved or canaliculate, sheath extending to pulvinus; leaf blade entire or divided, or perforate, thinly to rather thickly leathery, pinnately veined. Inflorescences terminal on leafy shoots, solitary or sometimes in a fascicle (synflorescence); as synflorescence develops axis sometimes reiterating and overtopping synflorescence such that inflorescence cluster is displaced and appears to be produced laterally (here termed “appearing axillary”). Spathe not constricted, initially inrolled and tubular, afterward spreading, firm, mostly early caducous, rarely marcescent. Stalk of spadix short or absent; spadix cylindrical. Flowers many, bisexual or sometimes a few male, naked. Stamens 4; anthers much shorter than filaments, dehiscent by a slit. Ovary 1- or incompletely 2-loculed, 2- to many ovuled; ovules basal or parietal, 1- or 2-seriate; style broadly conic; stigma circular to linear, in latter case longitudinally inserted. Fruit with stylar plate sloughing away in groups or singularly to reveal ovary cavity with seeds embedded in pulp, many seeded. Seeds small, oblong to reniform.

About 120 species: tropical Asia, Australia, tropical W Pacific; 12 species (two endemic) in China.

1a. Leaf blade entire.

2a. Leaf blade very large, more than 30 cm wide.

3a. Spadix obovoid-cylindric or ellipsoid, narrowing to base, 4.5–5.5 × 1.5–1.75 cm; inflorescences pendent; innovations puberulent; leaf midrib minutely pubescent abaxially 3. *R. hookeri*

3b. Spadix cylindrical, 18–25 × 2–3 cm; inflorescences erect; innovations glabrous; leaf midrib glabrous 4. *R. megaphylla*

2b. Leaf blade smaller, usually less than 15 cm wide.

4a. Leaf blade oblong or obliquely oblong, obtuse at base, 15–24 × 5–9 cm 2. *R. liukuensis*

4b. Leaf blade falcate-lanceolate or falcate-elliptic.

5a. Leaf blade narrowly cuneate at base; spathe green outside; spadix narrowing toward apex 5. *R. hongkongensis*

5b. Leaf blade rounded at base; spathe orange or pale yellow outside; spadix narrower and longer, cylindrical.

6a. Spathe orange on both surfaces, light yellow inside at base, light green outside at center immediately after opening (green color soon disappearing); spadix ca. 2/3 of spathe length; leaf blade thickly papery 1. *R. lancifolia*

6b. Spathe dull orange outside, dull yellow to dull orange inside; spadix more than 4/5 of spathe length; leaf blade subleathery 6. *R. peepia*

1b. Leaf blade pinnatifid.

7a. Style conspicuous; leaf blade very large, ovate-oblong, pinnae many, 6 or 7(–15) on each side.

8a. Foliage leaves scattered and interspersed with several (up to 7) cataphyll-bearing nodes; feeding roots corky and smooth; perforations absent, leaf blade 60–70 × 40–50 cm 12. *R. decursiva*

8b. Leaf arrangement not as above; feeding roots densely scaly; large perforations usually present along midrib, leaf blade 30–55 × 22–36 cm 11. *R. crassicaulis*

7b. Style obscure.

9a. Leaf blade less than 35 × 30 cm, with a few pinnae.

10a. Leaf blade broadly ovate, pinnatisect, ca. 35 × 25–30 cm, pinnae 3 or 4 on each side, sinuses almost reaching midrib; spadix long and thin, 15–18 × ca. 0.5 cm when dry 8. *R. laichauensis*

10b. Leaf blade ovate, pinnatifid, and at least some leaf blades on mature branches entire, 17–25 × 5–12 cm, pinnae 2 or 3 on each side, or only on 1 side and other side entire, sinuses reaching to 2–3 cm from midrib; spadix shorter, 12–13 × 0.8–1 cm 7. *R. luchunensis*

9b. Leaf blade longer than 37 cm; pinnae with 3–5 subequal, parallel costae.

11a. Pinnae 2–5 per side; spadix shorter than 9 cm 9. *R. glauca*

11b. Pinnae 6–9 per side; spadix ca. 10 cm 10. *R. dulongensis*

1. *Rhaphidophora lancifolia* Schott, Bonplandia (Hannover) 5: 45. 1857.

上树蜈蚣 shang shu wu gong

Lianas. Stem climbing, green, to 20 m or more, 1–2 cm in diam.; internodes 1–2 cm, rooting. Petiole green, sheathing from base to pulvinus, 14–30 cm, base ca. 3 mm in diam., at

apex pulvinus incassate, 1–1.5 cm; leaf blade pale green abaxially, green adaxially, falcate-lanceolate to ovate-oblong, rarely ovate, oblique, 25–40 × 10–13.5 cm, thickly papery, base obliquely rounded, i.e., one side obtuse, other side cuneate, usually one side of blade 7–8 cm wide, other side only 4–5.5 cm wide, margin entire, apex long acuminate; lateral veins 7 or 8 per side, ascending obliquely and arched. Inflorescences ter-

minal on branches; cataphylls membranous, lanceolate, ca. 10 cm, caducous; peduncle green, 7–10 cm, ca. 1 cm in diam., distally recurved. Spathe initially green, inrolled and tubular with a rostrum 2–3 cm, at anthesis spreading, orange on both surfaces, light green outside at center immediately after opening (green color soon disappearing), light yellow inside at base, cymbiform in outline, ca. 12.5 × 10 cm, apex abruptly acuminate, with a long rostrum, after anthesis caducous. Spadix sessile, cylindrical, ca. 7 × 1.3 cm, apex obtuse. Flowers bisexual; perigone absent. Anthers purple. Ovary yellow or pale green, tetragonal or pentagonal-cylindrical; stigma sessile, longitudinally oblong, many ovuled. Inflorescence incrassate, ca. 9 × 1.5–2 cm. Berry gray-green. Seeds many, yellow, cylindrical, 1.5–2 mm. Fl. Oct–Nov, fr. following Oct.

Rain forests, monsoon rain forests, creeping on trees; 500–2500 m. W Guangxi, Yunnan [Bangladesh, NE India].

2. *Rhaphidophora liukuensis* Hatusima, Acta Phytotax. Geobot. 20: 56. 1962.

针房藤 zhen fang teng

Lianas. Leaves petiolate; leaf blade oblong or obliquely oblong, 15–24 × 5–9 cm, leathery, base obtuse, margin entire, apex acuminate; lateral veins 8 or 9 pairs, ascending, nearly parallel. Peduncles 6–9 cm. Spathe convolute, ca. 8 × 2 cm. Spadix sessile, shorter than spathe, ca. 6 cm, ca. 1 cm in diam. Anthers ovoid, acuminate. Ovary hexagonal-cylindrical, ca. 5 mm.

S Taiwan (Lan Yu) [Japan (Ryukyu Islands)].

The records of *Rhaphidophora perkinsiae* Engler from Lan Yu (T. S. Liu & T. C. Huang, Quart. J. Taiwan Mus. 16: 141. 1963; Fl. Taiwan 5: 813. 1978) are based on misidentifications of *R. liukuensis* (see Fl. Taiwan, ed. 2, 5: 686. 2000). True *R. perkinsiae* is distributed in the Philippines.

3. *Rhaphidophora hookeri* Schott, Bonplandia (Hannover) 5: 45. 1857.

毛过山龙 mao guo shan long

Lianas, medium to large, to 15 m, moderately robust. Stem mid-green, cylindrical, 8–12[–20] mm in diam., internodes short, 5–10 mm. Leaves clustered at shoot tips; petiole 12–30 cm, channeled, margins sharp; pulvini distinct, 1–2 cm; petiolar sheath reaching to or just short of apical pulvinus; leaf blade obliquely oblong, 27.5–45 × 15–30 cm, thinly leathery, midrib and primary veins minutely pubescent, base rounded, truncate, or subcordate, apex with an acumen 15–20 mm; primary lateral veins diverging at 40–70° from midrib (angle smaller toward apex of blade). Inflorescences solitary at tips of free lateral shoots; peduncle pendent, 3–5 cm, subtended by 1 or 2 cataphylls; cataphylls caducous, ovate or ovate-lanceolate, 3–6 cm. Spathe outside green or gray-green, inside yellow, oblong-ovate, 5–6[–10] cm, thick, rostrum ca. 15 mm. Spadix sessile, yellow, obovoid, cylindrical, or elliptic, 4.5–5.5 × 1.5–1.75 cm, at fruiting stage ca. 8.5 × 3.5 cm. Filaments ca. 2 mm; anthers oblong; staminodes 4, usually around base of ovary in distal part of spadix. Ovary hexagonal-cylindrical; stigma subsessile, yellow, drying brown, longitudinally oblong; ovules many with

slender funicle. Inflorescences pendent from tips of lateral shoots, broadly cylindrical, 10–14 × ca. 3 cm; stigmas prominent. Fl. Mar–Jul.

Dense forests in mountain valleys, on large trees; 300–2200 m. Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Sichuan, SE Xizang (Mêdog), Yunnan [Bangladesh, Bhutan, NE India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, N Vietnam].

The stems are used medicinally for treating fractures.

4. *Rhaphidophora megaphylla* H. Li, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 15(2): 102. 1977.

大叶崖角藤 da ye ya jiao teng

Lianas, very large to gigantic, to 40 m, very robust. Stem cylindrical, very thick, 3–4 cm in diam., internodes 1–6 cm. Leaves dense, spiro-distichous; petiole green, canaliculate, 50–70 cm; petiolar sheath extending to ca. halfway, soon marcescent; leaf blade light green abaxially, green adaxially, ovate-oblong, very large, 50–70[–90] × 28–50 cm, stiffly leathery, base cordate, margin entire, apex abruptly acuminate; primary lateral veins 10–13 on each side, diverging at 80–90° from midrib. Inflorescences in fascicles of up to 4 inflorescences per synflorescence at tips of primary clinging shoots, appearing axillary. Peduncle green, 15–18 × ca. 2 cm. Spathe initially inrolled, white-green, afterward spreading, light yellow, opening deep yellow, oblong-cymbiform, 20–27 × ca. 16 cm, very thick (ca. 2 mm when dry). Spadix sessile, yellow-green, when dry green-black, cylindrical, 18–25 × ca. 2.5 cm, base oblique, apex obtuse. Stamens 4; filaments compressed, 2–3 × 0.5–1 mm; anthers yellow, small. Ovary tetragonal- or hexagonal-cylindrical, ca. 7 mm; stigma sessile, punctiform; ovules narrowly ellipsoid or cylindrical; funicle long and thin, base hairy. Inflorescence broadly cylindrical, up to 30 × 5 cm. Fl. Apr–Aug.

Moist rain forests in limestone areas, on large trees or on limestone; 600–1300 m. S Yunnan [N Laos, N Thailand, N Vietnam].

5. *Rhaphidophora hongkongensis* Schott, Bonplandia (Hannover) 5: 45. 1857.

狮子尾 shi zi wei

Lianas. Stem thick, rectangular in cross section; branches pendulous, 5–10 mm in diam.; internodes 1–4 cm, rooting; internodes of juvenile branches elongated to 6–8 cm, often producing aerial roots opposite to petiole. Petiole 5–10 cm, sheathing to pulvinus; pulvinus conspicuous, 4–10 mm; leaf blade pale green abaxially, green adaxially, usually falcate-elliptic, sometimes oblong-lanceolate, or oblanceolate, 20–35 × 5–6(–14) cm, base narrowly cuneate to minutely truncate, apex long acuminate; lateral veins many (but in fresh material almost invisible), diverging at 45° from midrib; juvenile stems with leaf blade obliquely elliptic, base narrowly cuneate on one side, rounded on other side, apex acute. Inflorescences terminal or appearing axillary; peduncle cylindrical, 4–5 cm, apex ca. 10 mm in diam. Spathe early caducous, green to light yellow, ovate, 6–9 cm, involute, apex acuminate. Spadix pale green or light yellow, cylindrical, 5–8 × 1.5–3 cm. Ovary hexagonal-cylindrical, ca. 4 × 2 mm, apex truncate; stigma black, capitate. Fruit yellow-green. Fl. Apr–Aug.

Valley rain forests, evergreen forests, on trees or stone walls; 100–900(–2000) m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Taiwan, Yunnan [?Indonesia, Laos, ?Malaysia, Myanmar, N Thailand, N Vietnam].

The plant is used medicinally for treating traumatic injuries, fractures, lumbago, rheumatism, and fevers.

6. *Rhaphidophora peepla* (Roxburgh) Schott, *Bonplandia* (Hannover) 5: 45. 1857.

大叶南苏 da ye nan su

Pothos peepla Roxburgh, Fl. Ind. 1: 454. 1820; *Monstera peepla* (Roxburgh) Schott; *Scindapsus peepla* (Roxburgh) Schott.

Lianas, medium to large, to 15 m, moderately robust. Stem pale green, terete, 8–12 mm in diam., rooting, internodes 2–5 cm, terete to weakly sulcate on opposite sides, branching usually short but abundant. Leaves tending to cluster at shoot tips; petiole light green, 10–20 cm, shallowly channeled; pulvinus thickened, 8–12 mm; petiolar sheath reaching pulvinus, marcescent; leaf blade oblong, elliptic-oblong, or ovate-oblong to oblong-lanceolate, 8–25 × 4–11 cm, subleathery, base rounded to subtruncate, margin entire, apex abruptly acuminate or acute; primary lateral veins many, parallel, diverging at 45° from midrib. Inflorescences solitary, terminal on lateral free branches; peduncle erect, distally recurved, robust, 8–10 cm; bracts around base early caducous, linear, 6–7 cm, membranous. Spathe gaping and thence spreading at anthesis then caducous, dull orange outside, dull yellow to dull orange inside, elliptic-oblong or oblong in outline, 7–9 cm, apex with rostrum ca. 10 mm. Spadix sessile, ochraceous, pale white, or violet [or yellowish white or yellow], cylindrical, 5.5–8 cm, ca. 4/5 of total spathe, 1–1.2 cm in diam. Stamens shorter than ovary during female anthesis; at male anthesis filaments extending to project thecae beyond pistil; anthers elliptic. Ovary tetragonal- or hexagonal-cylindrical, ca. 2 × 2 mm; stigma oblong, small. Infructescence initially green, later turning dull orange prior to stylar plates sloughing away, broadly cylindrical, 10–13 × ca. 3 cm. Fl. Sep–Oct.

Evergreen forests, valley forests, on trees or on stone walls; 1800–2800 m. Guizhou, Yunnan [Bangladesh, Bhutan, N Cambodia, NE India, Laos, N Myanmar, Nepal, N Thailand, N Vietnam].

The plant is used medicinally for treating fractures, traumatic injuries, rheumatic arthralgia, angina pectoris, bronchitis, and coughs.

7. *Rhaphidophora luchunensis* H. Li, *Acta Phytotax. Sin.* 15(2): 103. 1977.

绿春崖角藤 lü chun ya jiao teng

Lianas. Juvenile stems dark green, rooting, creeping on humus soil of forest understories or over bark mosses on trees, back rounded, moniliform or torulose, internodes thickened, 10–20 × 5–7 mm. Petiole 20–25 cm; sheath caducous, membranous; pulvinus ca. 10 mm; leaf blade light green abaxially, green adaxially, black-brown when dry, ovate or ovate-lanceolate, 10–27 × 5–12 cm, subleathery, base obliquely rounded, apex acuminate or caudate, unequally pinnately lobed; pinnae 2

or 3 on each side, or only on 1 side and other side entire, sinuses reaching to 2–3 cm from midrib, sometimes on mature branches some leaf blades pinnately lobed and others entire, or all leaf blades entire; lateral veins 9 or 10 on each side of midrib, ascending obliquely. Inflorescence nearly terminal; peduncle erect, green, robust, 12–14 cm. Spathe early caducous, spreading, light yellow-green, ovate, 14–16 cm. Spadix sessile, pale yellow, cylindrical, 12–13 × 2–3 cm, base oblique, apex obtuse. Flowers bisexual. Stamens 4; anthers sessile. Ovary green-white, pentagonal-cylindrical, ca. 8 × 4 mm, apex truncate; ovules oblong, with slender funicle, parietal; stigma sessile, yellow-brown, oblong. Berry free, juicy, orange, apex yellow-green, obconic, ca. 6 × 4 mm, 4–6-angulate. Fl. Sep–Nov, fr. next Jun–Jul.

• Evergreen forests, mossy forests, on large trees; 1700–2500 m. SE Xizang (Médog), Yunnan.

8. *Rhaphidophora laichauensis* Gagnepain, *Notul. Syst.* (Paris) 9: 137. 1941.

莱州崖角藤 lai zhou ya jiao teng

Lianas. Stem 1–2 cm in diam., internodes 3–4 cm, branched. Petiole ca. 30 cm, sheathing; pulvinus ca. 15 mm; leaf blade broadly ovate, ca. 35 × 25–30 cm, leathery, base truncate in outline, pinnately divided; pinnae 3 or 4 on each side, linear-oblong, ca. 14 × 3–4 cm, apex falcate-truncate with ascending falcate tip, with 1 or 2 equally parallel costae, sinuses almost reaching midrib. Peduncle 15–18 cm × ca. 5 mm. Spathe yellow, 10–11.5 cm. Spadix sessile, cylindrical, ca. 11 × 1.5–2 cm. Ovary hexagonal-cylindrical, apex truncate; stigma sessile, circular. Berry many seeded. Seeds spotted, oblong, fusiform, ca. 2 × 0.7 mm. Fl. May–Aug, mature fr. next year.

Dense forests, on trees or stone walls; below 1500 m. Hainan, Yunnan [N Vietnam].

9. *Rhaphidophora glauca* (Wallich) Schott, *Bonplandia* (Hannover) 5: 45. 1857.

粉背崖角藤 fen bei ya jiao teng

Pothos glaucus Wallich, *Pl. Asiat. Rar.* 2: 45. 1831 [“*glauc*”]; *Monstera glauca* (Wallich) K. Koch ex Ender; *P. wallichii* Steudel, nom. illeg. superfl.; *Rhaphidophora glauca* var. *khasiana* J. D. Hooker; *Scindapsus glaucus* (Wallich) Schott.

Lianas, to 10 m, but frequently smaller, slender to rather robust. Stems 0.7–2.5 cm in diam., terete in cross section; climbing stems with internodes elongated and rooting; free lateral stems forming a complex series of branches eventually pendent under their own weight. Leaves scattered, with 1 foliage leaf at each node except for proximal part of a branch where first few nodes possess a prophyll and 1 or more cataphylls instead of foliage leaves; petiole 9–33 cm, shallowly channeled, apical pulvinus indistinct; petiolar sheath reaching base of leaf blade; leaf blade pale to strikingly glaucous green abaxially, dull mid-green adaxially, ovate in outline, ± symmetric, 11.5–42 × 7.5–24 cm, base truncate, oblique, or shallowly cordate, apex acuminate, variously pinnatifid, pinnatipar-

tite, or pinnatisect, depending upon degree of maturity; pinnae 2–5(–8) per side, each pinna with 3 conspicuous primary lateral veins. Inflorescences erect, solitary, arising from tips of free lateral branches; peduncle spreading, apical part curved, 10–25 cm. Spathe opening wide, pale glaucous green in bud, opening pale to mid-yellow, waxy, oblong-ovate, 4.5–8.5 × 0.8–1.3 cm, apex acuminate. Spadix sessile, dull cream-colored, cylindric, 4.5–8.5 cm, 0.8–1.3 cm in diam. at widest point, base slightly tapering, apex truncate-rounded. Stamens 4 per flower; filaments flat, 2.7–3 × 0.8–1.5 mm, not increasing in length at anthesis; pollen simply expelled from between pistils. Pistils 3–5.5 mm, apex 3–4 mm wide, truncate, smooth; stigma flat, circular to elliptic, 0.6–1 mm; ovules numerous, on 2 intrusive parietal placentae. Infructescence 12–15 × 3–3.5 cm when ripe, subtended by persistent withered spathe remains early in development; stylar tissue on ripening falling as irregular plates to expose ovary cavities with seeds embedded in copious, pale orange pulp. Seeds numerous per ovary, narrowly ellipsoid, 1.5–2 × ca. 1 mm. Fl. Aug–Sep.

Montane broad-leaved forests, trees; below 2000 m. SE Xizang (Médog, Zayü) [Bangladesh, Bhutan, NE India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, N Thailand].

10. *Rhaphidophora dulongensis* H. Li, Acta Bot. Yunnan., Suppl. 5: 7. 1992.

独龙崖角藤 du long ya jiao teng

Lianas. Stem green, cylindric, 1–2 m, 2–3 cm in diam., internodes 0.5–2.5 cm. Petiole 41–49 × ca. 1.5 cm, basal 3–4 cm sheathing; pulvinus indistinct; leaf blade pale green abaxially, green adaxially, oblong-ovate in outline, ca. 50 × 35 cm, subleathery, base rounded or subcordate, pinnately divided; pinnae 6–9 per side, broadly linear, oblique, those at middle of leaf 4–5 cm wide, apex truncate with falcate tip; costae 3 or 4, equally strong, parallel; sinuses nearly reaching midrib. Peduncle solitary, cylindric, 15–20 cm × 8–10 mm. Spathe unknown. Spadix sessile, pale green, cylindric, ca. 10 × 1.8 cm. Ovary quadrangular-cylindric or pentagonal-cylindric, apex truncate; stigma capitate. Fr. Nov–Mar.

• Valley forests; below 2500 m. Yunnan (Gongshan).

11. *Rhaphidophora crassicaulis* Engler & K. Krause in Engler, Pflanzenr. 37(IV. 23B): 52. 1908.

粗茎崖角藤 cu jing ya jiao teng

Lianas. Branches dorsiventrally compressed, to 3 cm in diam., internodes short. Leaf blade ovate in outline, 30–55 × 22–36 cm, leathery, base obtuse, apex acute, pinnately divided; pinnae 6–10 or more per side, reaching midrib or nearly so, linear-falcate, base decurrent, apex truncate; primary lateral veins usually 2–4, equally strong, parallel, along midrib with perforations (8–20 × 2–5 mm), pinnae at middle of leaf 15–21 × 1–5 cm. Inflorescences terminal on lateral branches, solitary, erect; peduncle robust, cylindric, 12–20 × 1–1.6 cm. Spathe unknown. Spadix sessile, white, cylindric, 10–17 cm, 2–2.5 cm in diam. at base. Ovary cylindric, 6–8 × ca. 2 mm; ovules many, oblong, funicle long; style broadly conic; stigma circular. Fr. Nov–Dec.

Dense tropical forests, on trees or over stones; below 1300 m. Guangxi, Hainan, Yunnan [N Laos, N Vietnam].

12. *Rhaphidophora decursiva* (Roxburgh) Schott, Bonplandia (Hannover) 5: 45. 1857.

爬树龙 pa shu long

Pothos decursivus Roxburgh, Fl. Ind. 1: 456. 1820 [“*de-cursiva*”]; *Monstera decursiva* (Roxburgh) Schott; *Rhaphidophora affinis* Schott; *R. eximia* Schott; *R. grandis* Schott; *R. insignis* Schott; *Scindapsus decursivus* (Roxburgh) Schott.

Lianas, very large, to 20 m or more, very robust. Stem green at back, yellow at front, robust, 3–5 cm in diam., rooting, internodes 1–2 cm. Leaves scattered, each foliage leaf separated from next by several (up to 7) cataphyll-bearing nodes; petiole green, cylindric, 20–40 cm, shallowly canaliculate; pulvinus indistinct; petiolar sheath extending to ca. 2/3 along petiole; juvenile leaf blade orbicular, ca. 16 × 13 cm, margin entire, apex abruptly acute; mature leaf blade pale green abaxially, green adaxially, oblong-ovate, ovate in outline, 60–70[–100] × 40–50 cm, base subcordate, margin irregularly and asymmetrically pinnately divided, apex acute; pinnae 9–15 per side, ca. 20 × 3–5 cm at mid-leaf, base narrowed, apex truncate with ascending falcate tip, with a strong costa. Inflorescences axillary, solitary; peduncle green, cylindric, very robust, 11–20 × 1.5–3 cm. Spathe initially involute, afterward spreading, yellow on both sides, cymbiform, oblong-ovate, 17–20 × 10–12 cm. Spadix sessile, gray-green, cylindric, 15–16 × 2–3 cm, base oblique. Filaments flat, ca. 5 mm, nearly as long as ovary, base angustate; anthers yellow, oblong, less than 1 mm. Ovary hexagonal-conic, ca. 5 × 3 mm; style distinct, ca. 1 cm; stigma yellow, longitudinally oblong; ovules many; funicle laterally inserted, slender. Infructescence 15–20 × 5–5.5 cm. Berry green-white, base white or yellow, hexagonal-obconic, ca. 18 × 5 mm, apex with a persistent style, stylar region green-white, sloughing to reveal white or yellow pulp cavity. Fl. May–Aug, fr. mature next Jul–Sep.

Monsoon rain forests, valley evergreen broad-leaved forests, creeping on ground, over rocks, or climbing against trees; below 2200 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Sichuan, Taiwan, SE Xizang (Médog, Zayü), Yunnan [Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, NE India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, N Thailand, Vietnam].

The stems and leaves are used medicinally for treating traumatic injuries, fractures, swellings, colds, lumbago, snake bites, coughs, and bronchitis.

There has been much confusion over *Rhaphidophora decursiva* and *Epipremnum pinnatum* because both species have large, pinnatifid leaves, but *E. pinnatum* has a leaf blade with tiny perforations (ca. 2 mm) along and adjacent to the midrib, an ovary with 2 or 3 ovules, and a sessile, longitudinally linear-oblong stigma. There is also a difference in leaf arrangement: *R. decursiva* has foliage leaves scattered and interspersed with several (up to 7) cataphyll-bearing nodes, whereas *E. pinnatum* has leaves often clustered distally without such cataphyll-bearing nodes.

Fl. China 23: 10–14. 2010.