

Paederia foetida

Skunk vine

Introduction

The genus *Paederia* contains 20-30 species worldwide, generally distributed in the tropics of Asia. In China, eleven species and one variety have been reported, occurring mainly in the south and southwest China^[47].

Species of *Paederia* in China

Scientific Name	Scientific Name
<i>P. cavaleriei</i> Lévl.	<i>P. scandens</i> (Lour.) Merr.
<i>P. foetida</i> L.	<i>P. spectatissima</i> H. Li ex C. Puff
<i>P. lanuginosa</i> Wall.	<i>P. stenobotrya</i> Merr.
<i>P. laxiflora</i> Merr. ex Li	<i>P. stenophylla</i> Merr.
<i>P. pertomentosa</i> Merr. ex Li	<i>P. yunnanensis</i> (Lévl.) Rehd.
<i>P. praetermissa</i> C. Puff	

Taxonomy

Family: Rubiaceae

Genus: *Paederia* L.

Description

Paederia foetida, a twining vine-like shrub, may release a strong fetid odor when bruised. The opposite, membranous leaves are ovate to lanceolate, 5-10 cm long and 2-4 cm wide, with mucronate apices and rounded to cordate bases. The upper leaf surface is glabrous, the

underside pubescent. Conspicuous stipules are ovate lanceolate and 2-3 mm in length, with two notches in the top. Flowering terminally or from leaf axils, panicles reach a length of 6-18 cm. Corollas are violet, 12-16 mm long, and commonly hair-covered with short lobes. Topped with a conical flower discs and persistent lobes of the calyx, fruits are shiny black, broadly elliptic, with oblate nutlets 6-8 mm both long and wide, each with one broad wing^[47].



Paederia foetida growth habit. (Photo by Ken A. Langeland, University of Florida.)

Paederia scandens (Lour.) Merr., fever vine, is more common than *P. foetida*. It is a twining vine with a length of 3-5 m. It grows on hillsides, in forests, along forest edges, along streamsides, and twining on trees at elevations of 300-2,000 m in Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, and Zhejiang^[47].

Although there are some differences in appearance between *Paederia foetida* and *P. scandens*, recent work has reduced *P. scandens* to a synonym of *P. foetida*^[125].

Habitat and Distribution

Paederia foetida is reported to occur in the southern coastal provinces of Fujian and Guangdong^[47] and is suspected in the island province of Hainan^[5]. *P. foetida* can be found in sparse forests at low elevations^[47].

Economic Importance

The shading effect of *Paederia scandens* may cause crop damage. It is medically useful and it is also used in treating pesticide poisoning^[47].

Natural Enemies of *Paederia*

At least six fungi and seven arthropods are reported to attack *Paederia* spp.

Fungi

Phylum	Family	Species	H. R.	Ref.
Basidiomycota	Coleosporiaceae	<i>Coleosporium paederiae</i> Dietel	oo	23
	Incertae sedis	<i>Uredo paederiae</i> Syd. & P. Syd.	oo	23
	Pucciniaceae	<i>Puccinia paederiae</i> Dietel	mo	23
		<i>Puccinia zoysiae</i> Dietel	po	23
			†	149
Anamorphic <i>Guignardia</i>		<i>Phyllostictina paederiae</i> Petr.	mo	23
Anamorphic <i>Mycosphaerella</i>		<i>Cercospora paederiae</i> Tai	mo	23‡
		<i>Pseudocercospora paederiae</i> Sawada ex Goh & W.H. Hsieh	mo	110

† Appears as spring spore of *Aecidium paederiae*

‡ Regarded as synonym of *Pseudocercospora paederiae* Sawada ex Goh & W.H. Hsieh ^[110]

Arthropods

Order	Family	Species	H. R.	Ref.
Acariformes	Tetranychidae	<i>Tetranychus hydrangeae</i> Pritchard et Baker	po	142
Coleoptera	Chrysomelidae	<i>Phygasia fulvipennis</i> (Baly)	oo	65
Homoptera	Aphididae	<i>Aulacorthum nipponicus</i> (Essig et Kuwana)	mo	65
Lepidoptera	Sphingidae	<i>Gurelca himachala</i> (Butler)	mo	206
			mo	208
		<i>Gurelca hyas</i> (Walker)	po	206
			po	208
		<i>Macroglossum corythus luteata</i> (Butler)	po	206
			po	208
		<i>Macroglossum pyrrhosticta</i> (Butler)	mo	206
			mo	208