

1. **Rhapis excelsa** (Thunb.) Henry ex Rehder 棕竹

(Fig. 15; Photos 21–22)

Rehder, J. Arnold Arbor. 11: 153. 1930; FHN 4: 161, fig. 1062. 1977; FGD 2: 448, fig. 313. 1991; FRPS 13(1): 20, pl. 4: 1–3. 1991; FOC 23: 146. 2010.

Rhapis flabelliformis L' Hér. ex Aiton, Hort. Kew. 3: 473. 1789; FHK 340. 1861; FKH 286. 1912.

Chamaerops excelsa Thunb., J. A. Murray, Syst. Veg., ed. 14, 984. 1784.

Moderate shrub, dioecious, rhizomatous, 1.2–3 m tall. Stems clustered, slender, 1.5–3 cm in diam., covered with fibrous interwoven leaf sheaths. Leaves palmate, split deeply into 5–12 uneven segments, segments 2–5-ribbed, 20–32 × 1.5–4 cm, apices erose; sheaths with black interwoven fibres; petioles elliptic in cross-section, unarmed; hastula small, semi-circled or triangular. Inflorescences axillary, branched 2–3 orders, ca. 30 cm; prophyll and peduncle bract brown hairy; rachilla glabrous; flowers spirally arranged; male flowers ovoid to oblong, 5–6 mm, calyx cup-shaped, 3-lobed, corolla 3-lobed, stamens 6; female flowers 4 mm, sepals and petals similar to male flower, carpels 3, free, staminodes 6. Fruits usually developed from 1 carpel, subglobose, 8–10 mm in diam., yellow. Seed 1, globose.

Locality: Hong Kong Island, Tai Mo Shan, Ng Tung Chai, Lamma Island. *H. C. Tang 1776; Y. S. Lau 856, 1873.*

Distribution: Hainan, Guangdong, Fujian, Yunnan; Vietnam.

Ecology: Forests or dry forests on slopes. Flowering: Jun.–Sep.

Uses: Ornamental.