


Schefflera arboricola

Scientific classification	
Kingdom : Plantae	
Clade : Angiosperms	
Order : Apiales	
Family : Araliaceae	
Genus : <i>Schefflera</i>	
Species : <i>S.arboricola</i>	

Description

Schefflera arboricola is a flowering plant in the family Araliaceae, native to Taiwan as well as Hainan. Its common name is dwarf umbrella tree, as it resembles a smaller version of the umbrella tree. It is an evergreen shrub growing to 8–9 m tall, free-standing, or clinging to the trunks of other trees as an epiphyte. The leaves are palmately compound, with 7–9 leaflets, the leaflets 9–20 cm long and 4–10 cm broad. The stipules merge with the petiole. The flowers are produced in a 20 cm panicle of small umbels, each umbel 7–10 mm diameter with 5–10 flowers. The flowers are hermaphroditic, having a colour ranging from yellow to green and a double perianth radial symmetry. The fruits have an almost spherical oval drupe, with a diameter of about 5 mm.

Uses

Schefflera has bitter, sweet and warm properties, and is associated with the Liver meridian. Its main functions are to promote the circulation of the blood and to alleviate pain treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, numbness in the limbs, abdominal pain, headaches, arthralgia, and sore and/or swollen throat. It can also help to relieve asthma. Externally, it can be ground into a paste to treat injuries and stop bleeding.