

Tripterygium regelii

Tripterygium regelii, or Regel's threewingnut (Pinyin: Dongbei Leigongteng),[1] is a rambling, shrubby perennial deciduous yellow vine native to Korea, Japan and Manchuria. It grows to about 200 centimetres (79 in). Small very pretty yellowish white or white flowers appear in May–June and are produced on 203–229 millimetres (8.0–9.0 in). long panicles, and smell somewhat of new-mown hay. Fruits are greenish white, 3-angled, and winged.[2][3]

"*Tripterygium wilfordii* Hook.f., known as Leigongteng (Thunder God Vine) in traditional Chinese medicine, has attracted much attention for its applications in relieving autoimmune disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus, and for treating cancer. Molecular analyses of the ITS and 5S rDNA sequences indicate that *T. hypoglaucum* and *T. doianum* are not distinct from *T. wilfordii*, while *T. regelii* should be recognized as a separate species. The results also demonstrate potential value of rDNA sequence data in forensic detection of adulterants derived from *Celastrus angulatus* in commercial samples of Leigongteng."[4]

Certain extracts from *Tripterygium wilfordii*, as well as from *Tripterygium hypoglaucum* (now considered identical to *T. regelii*) and *Tripterygium regelii*, were discovered in the 1980s to have temporary antifertility effects, which has led to research on its potential as a contraceptive.[citation needed]

Tripterygium regelii is listed as a poisonous plant in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Poisonous Plant Database.[5]

