

**2. BOUGAINVILLEA** Commerson ex Jussieu, Gen. Pl. 91. 1789 [*“Buginvillea”*], nom. et orth. cons.

叶子花属 ye zi hua shu

Shrubs or small trees, sometimes climbing. Branches spiny. Leaves alternate, petiolate, leaf blade ovate or elliptic-lanceolate. Inflorescences axillary, pedunculate, 3-flowered cymes, each flower subtended by a persistent, often brightly colored, ovate bract adnate to the pedicel, often grouped into terminal panicles. Flowers bisexual; pedicel adnate to the midvein or the bract. Perianth connate, limb rose or yellow, funnelform, 5–6-lobed, lobes short. Stamens 5–10, included; filaments shortly united at base. Ovary fusiform, stipitate. Style lateral, short linear; stigma fimbriate. Fruit cylindrical or clavate, 5-ribbed, without sticky glands. Seed: testa thin; embryo curved, cotyledons convolute, enclosing the endosperm.

About 18 species: native to South America, widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions; two species (introduced) in China.

- 1a. Leaves glabrous or sparsely pubescent; bracts oblong or elliptic, as long as flowers; perianth tube distinctly angled, hairs very short, curved away from pedicel ..... 1. *B. glabra*
- 1b. Leaves densely pubescent; bracts elliptic-ovate, longer than flowers; perianth tube rounded, hairs copious, spreading, to 1 mm ..... 2. *B. spectabilis*

**1. Bougainvillea glabra** Choisy in Candolle, Prodr. 13(2): 437. 1849.

光叶子花 guang ye zi hua

*Bougainvillea spectabilis* var. *glabra* (Choisy) W. J. Hooker.

Shrubs vinelike. Stems thick, branches pendent, glabrous or sparsely pubescent; spines axillary, 5–15 mm. Petiole 1 cm; leaf blade ovate or ovate-lanceolate, 5–13 × 3–6 cm, chartaceous, abaxially sparsely pubescent, adaxially glabrous. Foliaceous bracts purple or magenta, oblong or elliptic, 2.5–3.5 × 2 cm, chartaceous. Perianth tube greenish, distinctly angled, ca. 2 cm, sparsely pubescent, ribbed, apex 5-lobed, hairs short, curved away from pedicel. Stamens 6–8. Fl. winter–spring (in south), Mar–Jul. (in north or greenhouse).

Widely cultivated in China, outdoors in frost-free areas, in greenhouses elsewhere [native to South America (Brazil)].

This species is used as an ornamental and medicinal plant. It is better adapted to areas lacking a distinct dry season and flowers more or less continuously in perpetually humid conditions.

**2. Bougainvillea spectabilis** Willdenow, Sp. Pl. 2: 348. 1799.

叶子花 ye zi hua

Branches and leaves densely pubescent; spines recurved. Leaves petiolate; leaf blade elliptic or ovate, base rotund. Bracts dark red or light purple-red, elliptic-ovate, 2.5–6.5 × 1.5–4 cm, base rotund to cordate. Perianth tube green, narrowly tubular, rounded, 1.6–2.4 cm, densely pubescent, apex 5–6-lobed, lobes spreading, yellow, 3.5–5 mm, hairs copious, spreading, to 1 mm. Stamens 8. Ovary stipitate. Fruit 1–1.5 cm, densely hairy. Fl. winter–spring.

Cultivated. S China [tropical America].

This species is used as an ornamental plant. It is adapted to climates with a distinct dry season and does not flower well in perpetually humid conditions. The name is often applied uncritically to material of hybrid origin.

