

3. EURYALE Salisbury in K. D. König & Sims, Ann. Bot. 2: 73. 1805.

芡属 qian shu

Herbs annual or short-lived perennial. Rhizomes erect, unbranched. Leaves submerged or floating; leaf blade broadly elliptic to orbicular, venation primarily radiate, juvenile ones with basal sinus, mature ones lacking sinus and only slightly indented basally, margin entire, centrally peltate. Flower epigynous, floating or often partially or entirely submerged, cleistogamous or perianth spreading. Sepals 4, greenish, not petaloid, persistent. Petals numerous, in ca. 5 series, showy, transition to stamens gradual. Stamens shorter than sepals and petals, inserted at apex of ovary; filament linear; anther connective unappendaged. Carpels 7–16, completely united. Style absent. Stigma sessile and radiate on cup-shaped stigmatic disc, lacking marginal appendages. Fruit irregularly dehiscent. Seeds smooth, arillate.

One species: E Asia.

1. Euryale ferox Salisbury in K. D. König & Sims, Ann. Bot. 2: 74. 1805.

芡实 qian shi

Submerged leaves not prickly; leaf blade sagittate or elliptic, 4–10 cm, base deeply cordate. Floating leaves prickly on petioles and along veins; leaf blade abaxially dark purple and adaxially green, to 1.3(–2.7) m in diam., subleathery, abaxially sparsely pubescent, adaxially glabrous, base emarginate or sinuate; veins abaxially strongly ribbed; primary veins prickly on both surfaces. Flower to 5 cm in diam. Peduncle stout, densely prickly. Sepals triangular-ovate, 1–1.5(–3) cm, abaxially densely prickly; prickles retrorse. Petals outer purple-violet fading to inner white, oblong-lanceolate, 1(–2.5) cm. Ovary 7–16-loculed, each locule with 6–8 or more ovules. Fruit dark purple, globose, 5–10 cm in diam., spongy, densely prickly. Seeds black, 8 to many, globose, 6–10 mm in diam.; testa thick, rigid. Fl. Jun–Aug.

Lakes, ponds. Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Bangladesh, India, Japan, Kashmir, Korea, Russia (Far East)].

This species is cultivated for its starchy seeds.

