

1. GYMNOCARPOS Forsskål, Fl. Aegypt.-Arab. 65. 1775.

裸果木属 *luo guo mu shu*

Lu Dequan (鲁德全); Mats Thulin

Shrublets or herbs. Stems glabrous, much branched. Leaves opposite, often fascicled, sessile or shortly petiolate, linear-oblongate to suborbicular, terete or with a shallow groove, fleshy, mucronate; stipules membranous. Inflorescence cymose; bracts membranous or leaflike. Flowers bisexual. Sepals 5, mucronate at apex. Petals absent. Stamens 10, 2-whorled, outer 5 staminodes, inner 5 opposite sepals. Pistil 3-carpellate. Ovary superior or \pm sunken into the receptacle, 1-locular with single ovule. Style 1; stigma 3-lobed. Fruit rupturing irregularly, enclosed in persistent calyx.

Ten species: from Macaronesia in the west to NW China and Mongolia in the east, with a center of diversity in tropical E Africa; one species in China.

1. *Gymnocarpus przewalskii* Bunge ex Maximowicz, Bull.

Acad. Imp. Sci. Saint-Petersbourg, sér. 3, 26: 502. 1880.

裸果木 *luo guo mu*

Gymnocarpus przewalskii var. *scabrida* Chaudhri,
Meded. Bot. Mus. Herb. Rijks Univ. Utrecht 285: 58.
1968.

Shrublets 20–100 cm tall, forming thickets up to ca. 2 m wide. Bark dark gray, tender branches ochreous-red, nodes inflated. Leaves linear-subulate, 5–20 \times 1–1.5 mm, apex acute, mucronate. Cymes axillary; bracts broadly elliptic, 6–8 \times 3–5 mm. Sepals connate at base; tube ca. 1.5 mm; lobes reddish, oblanceolate, 3–4 mm. Petals absent. Outer stamens without anther; inner filaments 1.5–2.2 mm; anther ellipsoid, longitudinally dehiscent. Ovary subglobose. Seeds brown, oblong, ca. 1.6 \times 1.2 mm. Fl. May–Jun, fr. Jul–Sep.

Gobi Desert, dry riverbeds, gravelly hill slopes; 800–2500 m. Gansu, W Nei Mongol, Ningxia, N Qinghai, Xinjiang [S Mongolia].

This is a rare species in China; it is useful for binding sand, and camels relish the tender branches.

