

1. ARGEMONE Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 508. 1753.

薊罌粟屬 ji ying su shu

Zhang Mingli (张明理); Christopher Grey-Wilson

Herbs, annual, biennial, or perennial, usually stout, mostly branched, spiny, bitter yellow lactiferous. Stems mostly erect. Leaves pinnate, lobes repand dentate, teeth apically spiny. Flowers solitary, terminal or arranged in cyme, trimerous; receptacles narrowly conical. Flower buds erect. Sepals (2 or)3, caducous, apex with horned appendices. Petals (4–)6, in 2 whorls, contorted or imbricate in bud, orange, yellow, yellow-white, or white, occasionally pink or mauve. Stamens many, free; filaments filiform or slightly ampliate below middle, apically subulate; anthers linear, nearly basal, bifid, extrorse, curved after dehiscence. Ovary ovoid, conical-ovoid, or nearly elliptic; carpels (3 or)4–6, united; ovules many; styles very short or absent; stigmas as many as carpels, actinomorphic. Capsule spiny, rarely not spiny, apex divided for a short distance into 3–6 valves, rarely parting nearly to base. Seeds many, spheroidal; caruncle very small or absent, seed coat tessellate.

Twenty-nine species: mainly in North America from United States to C Mexico and the West Indies, nine species in South America (three in Chile), one in Hawaii, and the others scattered along the NW and W coasts of the Americas; one species (introduced) in China.

1. *Argemone mexicana* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 508. 1753.

薊罌粟 ji ying su

Herbs, annual or occasionally short-lived perennial, 30–100 cm tall, usually stout. Stems mostly short, branched, with sparse explanate fulvous spines. Basal leaves dense; petiole 5–10 mm; blade glaucous with blue-green markings on veins, paler abaxially, broadly oblanceolate or obovate to elliptic, 5–20(–25) × 2.5–7.5(–8) cm, glabrous, sparsely sharply spiny on veins, base cuneate, margin pinnatipartite, apex acute; lobes undulate teeth, teeth apically spiny. Cauline leaves alternate, similar to basal leaves, but upper leaves smaller and sessile, often subamplexicaul. Flowers solitary, sometimes in few-flowered cymes. Pedicel very short. Flower buds ovoid, ca. 1.5 cm. Sepals 2(or 3), cymbiform, ca. 1 cm, apex spurred, glabrous or

sparsely spiny. Petals 6, yellow or orange, broadly obovate, 1.7–3 cm, base broadly cuneate, apex rounded. Filaments ca. 7 mm; anthers narrowly oblong, 1.5–2 mm, coiling after dehiscence. Ovary elliptic or oblong, 7–10 mm, with explanate fulvous spines; styles very short; stigmas dark red, 4–6-lobed. Capsule oblong to broadly elliptic, 2.5–5 × 1.5–3 cm, sparsely fulvous spiny, 4–6-valved dehiscing from apex to 1/4–1/3 of length. Seeds spherical, 1.5–2 mm in diam., obviously tessellate. Fl. and fr. Mar–Oct. $2n = 28$.

Naturalized along coasts, introduced in courtyards. Naturalized in Fujian, Guangdong, Taiwan, ?Yunnan; introduced in many provinces in China [native to Central and tropical America].

This is a widely cultivated plant which has become a naturalized weed in many parts of the world, particularly in subtropical regions. The seeds are poisonous.

PAPAVERACEAE