

## 10. CHELIDONIUM Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 505. 1753.

白屈菜属 bai qu cai shu

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Herbs, perennial, erect, blue-gray, yellow lactiferous. Rootstock brown. Stems erect, terete, cymosely branched. Basal leaves in a lax rosette, long petiolate, pinnatisect; lobes obovate-oblong, broadly obovate, or lanceolate, margin crenate, deltoid-lobed, or nearly pinnatisect. Cauline leaves alternate, shortly petiolate; blade like basal leaves. Flowers many, forming axillary umbels, bracteate. Flower buds ovoid. Sepals 2, olivine. Petals 4, yellow, in 2 whorls. Stamens many. Ovary terete, 1-loculed, 2-carpellate, glabrous; styles distinct; stigmas 2-lobed. Capsule narrowly terete, almost moniliform, glabrous, when mature 2 segments divided from base to apex; stigmas persistent. Seeds many, shiny, small, tessellate, cristately carunculate.

One species: Old World temperate areas, from temperate Europe to Japan, widely distributed in China.

### 1. *Chelidonium majus* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 505. 1753.

白屈菜 bai qu cai

*Chelidonium grandiflorum* (Candolle) Candolle; *C. majus* subsp. *grandiflorum* (Candolle) Printz; *C. majus* var. *grandiflorum* Candolle.

Herbs, perennial, 30–60(–100) cm tall. Taproot conical, stout, lateral roots many. Stems cymose, branched; branches often pubescent, densely so on nodes, later glabrous. Basal leaves few, caducous; petiole 2–5 cm, pubescent or glabrous, base ampliate to sheath; blade glaucous abaxially, green adaxially, obovate-oblong or broadly obovate, 8–20 cm, abaxially sparsely shortly pubescent, adaxially glabrous, pinnatisect; lobes 2–4 pairs, obovate-oblong, irregularly parted or lobed; lobe margin crenate. Upper cauline leaves: petiole 5–15 mm; blade 2–8 × 1–5 cm. Inflorescence an umbel, multiflorous. Pedicel tenuous, 2–8 cm, villous when young, later glabrous. Bracts

ovate, small, 1–2 mm. Flower buds ovoid, 5–8 mm in diam. Sepals caducous, ovoid, cymbiform, 5–8 mm, glabrous or sparsely pubescent. Petals yellow, obovate, ca. 1 cm, entire. Stamens ca. 8 mm; filaments yellow, filamentous; anthers oblong, ca. 1 mm. Ovary green, linear, ca. 8 mm, glabrous; styles ca. 1 mm; stigmas 2-lobed. Capsule narrowly terete, 2–5 cm × 2–3 mm; pedicel usually shorter than fruit. Seeds dark brown, shiny, ovoid, ca. 1 mm or shorter, alveolate. Fl. and fr. Apr–Sep.  $2n = 10, 12$ .

Slopes, forest margins, grasslands, roadsides, stone crevices, shaded banks, streamsides; 500–2200 m. Anhui, Gansu, Guizhou, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jilin, Liaoning, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi, C and NE Sichuan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Japan, Korea, Russia; Europe].

One of us (Grey-Wilson) notes that the Asian plant is often distinguished as *Chelidonium majus* var. *grandiflorum* on account of its larger flowers (flowers to 3.5 cm wide; rarely over 2.5 cm in European and SW Asian specimens).

