

## 16. MENISPERMUM Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 340. 1753.

蝙蝠葛属 *bian fu ge shu*

Herbaceous vines. Leaf blade peltate, palmately veined. Inflorescences axillary. Male flowers: sepals 4–10, ± spirally arranged, usually concave; petals 6–8 or more, ± fleshy, reniform-cordate to rotund, margin inflexed; stamens 12–18[–36], free, anther subglobose, dehiscent longitudinally. Female flowers: sepals and petals as in male flower; staminodes 6–12 or more, clavate; carpels 2–4, ovary saccate-semiovoid, style short, stigma large and lobed, curved outward. Drupes suboblate, style scar near base; endocarp reniform-rounded or broadly half-moon-shaped, rather flattened; condyle lamella-shaped. Seed embryo annularly curved; endosperm rich; cotyledons semiterete, slightly longer than radicle.

Three or four species: E Asia, North America; one species in China.

### 1. *Menispermum dauricum* Candolle, Syst. Nat. 1: 540. 1817.

蝙蝠葛 *bian fu ge*

*Menispermum chinense* Kundu & S. Guha; *M. dauricum* var. *pauciflorum* Franchet; *M. dauricum* var. *pilosum* C. K. Schneider; *M. miersii* Kundu & S. Guha.

Herbaceous deciduous vines. Neck of rootstock brown, vertical, new stems from subapical buds, slender, striate, usually glabrous. Petiole 3–10[–13.5] cm or slightly longer, striate; leaf blade usually cordate-oblate in outline, usually shallowly 3–9-lobed, 3–12 × 3–12 cm, papery or submembranous, glaucous abaxially, usually glabrous on both surfaces, sometimes abaxially pubescent, base cordate to subtruncate, margin entire, palmately 9–12-veined, 3–5 veins extending to base and slender, all prominent abaxially. Inflorescences paniculate, solitary or paired, 20-flowered with flowers in mostly sessile, sometimes umbel-like fascicles; peduncle slender, 2–17 cm; bracts ± oblong, almost as long as secondary peduncles; pedicels slender, 5–10 mm. Male flowers: sepals 4–8, membranous, greenish yellow, oblanceolate to obovate-elliptic, 1.4–3.5 mm; petals 6–8

or up to 9–12, fleshy, concave, shortly clawed, 1.5–2.5 mm; stamens 12–18, (0.6–)1.5–3 mm, usually longer than sepals. Female flowers: perianth as in male; staminodes 6–12, ca. 1 mm; carpels inserted on a distinct 0.5–1 mm stalk. Drupes purplish black; endocarp broadly crescent-moon-shaped, ca. 10 mm wide and 8 mm high, base sinuate, ca. 3 mm. Fl. Jun–Jul, fr. Aug–Sep.

Shrublands at roadsides, open forests; below 800 m. Anhui, Gansu, Guizhou, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Hubei (Baokang), Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Liaoning, Nei Mongol, Ningxia, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi, Zhejiang [Japan, Korea, Russia (Siberia)].

Two recently described species based on single collections from N China (*Menispermum chinense*) and from Russia (*M. miersii*) differ only in minor differences of indumentum and other small quantitative characters and do not seem worthy of recognition.

Kundu and Guha (*Adansonia* n.s. 20: 225. 1998) suggested that *Menispermum mexicanum* Rose is only varietally distinct from *M. dauricum*.

Some collections suggest a rhizomatous rootstock.

The specific epithet is often misspelled as “*dahuricum*.”

