

**1. RESEDA** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 448. 1753.

木犀草属 mu xi cao shu

Herbs annual or perennial, erect or spreading, ± decumbent, rarely shrubs, pubescent or glabrous. Leaves entire to pinnatifid; stipules glandular. Flowers borne in racemes. Sepals 4–7. Petals 4–7, usually lobed, clawed at base. Stamens 7–40, forming a disc at base. Carpels 3–6, united at base; placentas 3–6; ovules numerous. Capsule 1-valved, opening widely at maturity.

About 60 species: E and N Africa, C and SW Asia, N Atlantic Islands, S Europe, widely naturalized elsewhere; three species (introduced) in China.

- 1a. Leaves entire or toothed to parted; flowers white to light yellow or orange-red, fragrant; capsule pendulous ..... 1. *R. odorata*  
1b. Leaves 3–5-parted or pinnatifid; flowers white, yellow, or yellowish green; capsule erect.  
2a. Leaves pinnatifid; flowers white, sepals and petals usually 5; capsule 4-lobed at apex ..... 2. *R. alba*  
2b. Leaves 3–5-parted or pinnatifid; flowers yellow or yellowish green, sepals and petals usually 6; capsule 5-lobed at apex ..... 3. *R. lutea*

**1. Reseda odorata** Linnaeus, Amoen. Acad. 3: 51. 1756.

木犀草 mu xi cao

Herbs usually annual, to 40 cm tall, glabrous. Stem branched. Leaves subsessile, spatulate or lanceolate to elliptic-oblong, entire or toothed to parted, papery. Flowers in terminal racemes; white or light yellow, or orange-red when cultivated, very fragrant. Sepals 6, narrowly spatulate, 2.5–4 mm, shorter than pedicel. Petals 6, clawed at base, lower 2 entire, lateral 2 digitate, upper 2 digitate with few segments and equaling sepals. Stamens 17–20; filaments subulate. Carpels 3. Capsule pendulous, subglobose or urceolate, 3-angled, ca. 1 cm. Seeds black, shiny, 2–2.5 mm; testa rugose.  $2n = 12$ .

Cultivated for ornament. Shanghai Shi, Taiwan, Zhejiang (Hangzhou Shi) [native to S Greece (Gavdos Island) and NE Libya; widely cultivated and naturalized elsewhere].

Petals 6, rounded-clawed at base, lower 2 entire, lateral two 2- or 3-parted, upper 2 largest, 3-parted. Stamens 12–20. Carpels 3, connate. Capsule erect, cylindric or ovoid to subglobose, obtusely 3-angled, ca. 1 cm, apically 3-cleft. Seeds black, shiny, reniform, ca. 2 mm. Fl. and fr. Jul–Aug.  $2n = 12, 24, 48$ .

Mountain slopes, probably escaped from cultivation. Liaoning [native to SW Asia (E to Turkmenistan) and the Mediterranean region; widely naturalized elsewhere].

**2. Reseda alba** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 449. 1753.

白木犀草 bai mu xi cao

Herbs annual or perennial, 30–90 cm tall, glabrous. Stem erect, angular. Leaves pinnatifid, papery; lobes in 5–15 pairs, linear, attenuate at base, margin entire or repand. Flowers in terminal, dense racemes. Sepals usually 5, linear, equaling pedicel. Petals usually 5, subrounded-clawed at base, 3-lobed for 1/3–2/3 their length; lateral lobes often again lobed. Stamens 11–14. Carpels 4. Capsule erect, oblong, 4-angled, 8–15 mm, apically constricted and 4-cleft. Seeds light brown, reniform, ca. 1 mm.  $2n = 20, 40$ .

Cultivated for ornament. Taiwan [native to the Mediterranean region; widely naturalized elsewhere].

**3. Reseda lutea** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 449. 1753.

黄木犀草 huang mu xi cao

Herbs annual or perennial, caespitose, 30–75 cm tall, glabrous. Stem branched, angular. Leaves 3–5-parted to pinnatifid, papery; lobes linear, margin repand. Flowers in terminal racemes, yellow to yellowish green; pedicel 3–5 mm. Sepals 6, linear, unequal, shorter than pedicel.

