

7. MYTILARIA Lecomte, Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. (Paris) 30: 504. 1924.

壳菜果属 ke cai guo shu

Trees, evergreen, up to 20 m tall; branchlets with distinct nodes, glabrous. Leaves long petiolate; stipule solitary, narrowly ovate, enclosing apical bud, caducous, leaving annular scar at each node; leaf blade tricuspidate or simple, broadly ovate-rounded, leathery, base cordate, margin entire, venation actinodromous. Inflorescence densely spicate, terminal or leaf-opposed, pedunculate, many flowered. Flowers bisexual, adjacent flowers united at base. Floral cup adnate to ovary. Sepals usually 5, imbricate, ovate-rounded, unequal. Petals usually 5, white, linear-liguliform, subfleshy, straight in bud. Stamens 10–13 (but see comment below), filaments short, stout; anther thecae 2-sporangiate, each dehiscing by 2 valves, connective protrusion massive, stamens and staminodes fused with petals into a tube. Ovary semi-inferior; ovules 6 per locule; styles very short. Capsules ovoid-globose, dehiscing above middle by two 2-lobed valves; exocarp subfleshy, endocarp woody. Seeds more than 1 per carpel, ellipsoid; seed coat thick and hard; endosperm fleshy; embryo situated in middle. $2n = 26$.

One species; China, Laos, N Vietnam.

The stamen number in *Mytilaria* is uncertain. Chang (*Sunyatsenia* 7: 69. 1948, and in FRPS 35(2): 50. 1979) gave it as 10–13, but the collection *W. T. Tsang* 22180 (P) from Guangxi has 5 stamens and 5 staminodes.

1. Mytilaria laosensis Lecomte, Bull. Mus. Hist. Nat. (Paris) 30: 505. 1924.

壳菜果 ke cai guo

Trees to 30 m tall; branchlets stout, glabrous. Petiole 7–10 cm, glabrous; leaf blades broadly ovate-rounded, 10–13 × 7–10 cm, abaxially yellow-green or grayish, glabrous, adaxially drying olive-green, shiny, apex shortly acute, palmately 5-vein-

ed, veins raised. Inflorescences terminal or axillary, ca. 4 cm, densely many flowered; peduncle glabrous. Sepals ca. 1.5 mm, apex subacute, abaxially pubescent; petals white, 8–10 mm. Styles 2–3 mm; stigmas decurrent papillose. Capsules yellow-brown, 1.5–2 cm. Seeds brown, shiny, 10–12 × 5–6 mm. Fl. Mar–Jun, fr. Jul–Sep.

Forests; ca. 1000 m. W Guangdong, W Guangxi, SE Yunnan [Laos, N Vietnam].

