

## 56. AESCHYNOMENE Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 713. 1753.

合萌属 he meng shu

Herbs or shrublets. Vegetative and reproductive parts covered usually with viscid tubercular-based trichomes. Stems erect or creeping, often hollow. Stipules spurred below point of insertion, peltate or unilaterally auriculate, caducous. Leaves paripinnate, 20- to many foliolate, often sensitive; leaflets opposite, subsessile, with 1 midvein or 2 to several primary veins. Inflorescences usually axillary, usually racemose, with several flowers; bracts paired, stipule-shaped, not spurred, persistent or caducous, margin denticulate. Flower small to medium-sized. Bracteoles present. Hypanthium short. Calyx membranous, usually 2-lipped, abaxial lip 3-lobed, adaxial lip 2-lobed. Corolla usually yellow; standard orbicular, large; wings without an auricle; keels curved, with a small beak. Stamens diadelphous (5+5) or basally connate; anthers uniform. Ovary linear, with numerous ovules; style filiform, inflexed; stigma terminal. Legume a loment, compressed, stipitate, divided into 4–8 articles, surface often muricate. Seed 1 per article.

About 150 species: tropics and subtropics worldwide; two species (one introduced) in China.

- 1a. Stems viscid; leaflets with 2 to several primary veins; legume oblong, slightly curved, abaxial suture undulate and indented; articles rounded ..... 1. *A. americana*  
1b. Stems not viscid; leaflets with 1 midvein; legume linear-oblong, straight, abaxial suture straight and slightly indented; articles quadrate ..... 2. *A. indica*

### 1. *Aeschynomene americana* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 713. 1753.

敏感合萌 min gan he meng

Herbs or shrublets, (0.4–)1.5–2 m tall. Stems erect, many branched, glabrous, viscid. Stipules lanceolate, 10–12 × 1–3 mm, membranous, base auriculate, apex acute. Leaves 30–40-foliolate; leaflet blades linear-oblong, 8–10 × 2–4 mm, papery, primary veins 2–4, base oblique, apex obtuse and mucronate. Inflorescences axillary, racemose, laxly branched, 2–4-flowered; bracts cordate, membranous. Bracteoles linear-ovate, striate. Calyx deeply 2-lobed. Corolla yellow, ca. 7 mm. Legume oblong, 2.5–3 cm × 2.5–3 mm, herbaceous to leathery, slightly curved, abaxial suture undulate and indented; articles 4–7, rounded, slightly muricate. Seeds brown, reniform. Fl. and fr. Oct–Nov.

Roadsides. Naturalized in Taiwan [native to tropical America].

### 2. *Aeschynomene indica* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 713. 1753.

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Shrublets or annual herbs, (15–)30–100(–150) cm tall. Stems erect, many branched, cylindrical, hollow, glabrous, corky at base, often with nodule-bearing adventitious roots. Stipules elliptic to lanceolate, 4–11 × 1–2 cm, membranous, caducous,

base auriculate, apex acuminate. Leaves 20–60-foliolate, often sensitive; petiole 2–4 mm; rachis with tuberculate-based trichomes; leaflet blades linear-oblong, 3–13 × 1–3 mm, papery, base oblique, apex obtuse and mucronate. Inflorescences axillary, racemose, sometimes short or reduced to a solitary flower; peduncle 4–7 mm, with tuberculate-based trichomes; bracts ovate, caducous, margin often denticulate. Bracteoles ovate-lanceolate, persistent. Calyx 3–4 mm, membranous, glabrous. Corolla pale yellow with purplish longitudinal striations. Legume linear-oblong, 2.2–3.4 cm × 3–5 mm, straight, herbaceous to leathery, abaxial suture straight, slightly indented; articles 2–8, quadrate, slightly muricate and with tuberculate-based trichomes. Seeds blackish brown, reniform, ca. 2 mm. Fl. Jul–Sep, fr. Jul–Oct.  $2n = 40$ .

Field margins, ditches, grasslands, trailsides and river margins in sunny places; 100–1300 m. Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, S Jilin, Liaoning, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Bhutan, India, Japan, Kashmir, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; tropical Africa, SW Asia, Australia, Pacific islands, South America].

This species is used for green fertilizer, medicinal purposes, and as an industrial raw material.

AESCHYNOMENEAE