
缅茄属 *mian qie shu*

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*Pahudia* Miquel.

Trees. Leaves abruptly pinnate; stipules caducous, minute; leaflets in few pairs. Panicles terminal; bracts and bracteoles deciduous or ± persistent, ovate, slightly thick, not colored. Flowers bisexual, pedicellate. Calyx tubular, with a disk in throat; lobes 4, slightly unequal in size, leathery, imbricate. Petal 1, suborbicular or reniform, clawed, others rudimentary or absent. Stamens 7 or 8; filaments elongated, base partly united or free; anthers ovoid or oblong, opening lengthwise; staminodes 2, very small. Ovary stalked, stalk adnate to calyx tube; ovules few to numerous; style filiform; stigma subcapitate, small. Legume slightly compressed, oblong or obliquely oblong, woody, thick, 2-valved, transversely septate between seeds. Seeds ovoid or oblong, with horny, hard, arillloid funicle at base, without endosperm; cotyledons fleshy, ± flat; embryo straight.

About 14 species: tropical Asia and Africa; one species (introduced) in China.


缅茄 *mian qie*


Trees, 15–25 m tall, sometimes to 40 m tall. Trunk ca. 90 cm d.b.h. Bark brown. Petiolules short, less than 5 mm; leaflets 3–5 pairs, opposite, ovate or broadly elliptic to suborbicular, 4–14 × 3.5–6 cm, papery, base rounded and slightly oblique, apex rounded or emarginate. Inflorescence densely grayish yellow-green or grayish white puberulent; bracts and bracteoles persistent, ovate or triangular-ovate, equal in size, ca. 6 mm. Calyx tube 1–1.3 cm; lobes elliptic, 1–1.5 cm, apex rounded. Petal pale purple, obovate to suborbicular; claw white villous. Stamens 7, united at base; filaments exserted, 3–3.5 cm, pubescent in lower part. Ovary narrowly oblong, hairy; style elongated and exserted. Legume blackish brown, compressed, oblong, 11–17 × 7–8.5 cm, hard. Seeds 2–5, deep brownish red, shiny, slightly compressed, ovoid or suborbicular, ca. 2 cm. Fl. Apr–May, fr. Nov–Dec.

Cultivated. Guangdong (Maoming, Xuwen), Guangxi (Hepu, Nanning), Hainan, Yunnan (Shiping, Xishuangbanna) [native to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam].

The seeds are used for carving; the plant is also used medicinally for relieving toothaches and eye diseases.