

57. **ARACHIS** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 741. 1753.

落花生属 *luo hua sheng shu*

Herbs, annual. Stipules large, partly adnate with petiole, not spurred. Leaves paripinnate; leaflets opposite, subsessile. Inflorescences axillary, usually reduced to a solitary flower or a cluster of flowers. Hypanthium long. Calyx membranous; tube slender, elongating with flower development, 5-lobed, adaxial 4 lobes connate. Corolla yellow; standard almost orbicular, without an auricle; wings oblong, auriculate; keel apex slightly beaked. Stamens monadelphous, 10 but usually one absent; anthers dimorphic, long and short ones alternate, long ones almost dorsifixed, short ones basifixed. Ovary subsessile, base elongated and curved after fertilization, with 2 or 3(-6) ovules; style filiform; stigma terminal. Legume oblong, subtorulose, with thick walls, reticulated, 1-5(or 6)-seeded, not breaking into segments, indehiscent, apex not beaked.

About 22 species: tropics of America; one species (introduced) in China.

Two other species, *Arachis glabrata* Benth and *A. pintoi* Krapovickas & W. C. Gregory, have been experimentally introduced for fodder in S China.

1. **Arachis hypogaea** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 741. 1753.

落花生 *luo hua sheng*

Lathyrus esquirolii H. Léveillé.

Herbs, annual, erect to decumbent. Stems erect or procumbent, (6-)30-80 cm tall, yellowish pubescent, glabrescent. Stipules 2-4 cm, pilose. Leaves usually 4-foliolate; petiole 3.7-10 cm, covered with long flexuous trichomes, basally adnate to stipule; petiolules 1-10 mm, velutinous; leaflet blades ovate-oblong to obovate, 1.1-5.9 × 0.5-3.4 cm, papery, both surfaces with long trichomes, veins ca. 10 on each side of midvein, base almost rounded, margin ciliate, apex obtuse or emarginate and mucronate. Bracts lanceolate, apex acuminate. Flowers 8-10 mm, sessile; bracteoles lanceolate, ca. 5 mm, velutinous. Calyx tube 4-6 mm, thin. Corolla yellow to golden yellow; standard

spreading, apex emarginate; wings distinct, oblong to obliquely ovate, slender; keels distinct, long ovate, shorter than wings, inflexed, apex acuminate to beaked. Ovary oblong; style longer than calyx; stigma terminal, small, sparsely pubescent. Legume geocarpic, oblong, inflated, 2-5 × 1-1.3 cm, thick-walled, reticulate veined, with 1-4(-6) seeds. Seeds light brown, oblong, 5-10 mm in diam. Fl. May-Aug, fr. Jul-Sep. $4n = 40$.

Grown in sandy warm areas. Cultivated in Anhui, Fujian, Gansu, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Liaoning, Ningxia, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, and Zhejiang [native to tropical South America].

Peanuts are grown over much of China except for Heilongjiang, Qinghai-Xizang Plateau, and Xinjiang. In addition to being used for food, they are used as a source of oil, soap, cosmetics, green fertilizer, fodder, and paper.

