
### jiu ming shu

Trees or large shrubs. Leaves spirally arranged, often distichous, abruptly pinnate; rachis and petioles without glands; leaflets opposite, without stipules. Flowers in terminal panicles on main shoots or racemes on short side shoots; pedicels with 2 bracteoles at or shortly above base. Calyx 5-merous; sepals reflexed at anthesis. Corolla zygomorphic; petals 5. Stamens 10; filaments of 3 abaxial antesepalous stamens sigmoidally curved, usually longer than their anthers, dehiscent by slits; remaining 7 filaments straight and short, with anthers mostly dehiscent by basal pores. Legume elongate, cylindric or compressed, indehiscent. Seeds numerous, 1- or 2-seriate; funicle filiform.

About 30 species: tropical regions; two species (one introduced) in China.

**Cassia fistula** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 377. 1753.

Trees, deciduous, to 15 m tall. Leaves 30–40 cm, with 3 or 4 pairs of leaflets; leaflets adaxially shiny, broadly ovate or ovate-oblong, 8–13 × 4–8 cm, leathery, both surfaces puberulent when young, glabrous when mature, base broadly cuneate, acute. Racemes axillary, 20–40(–60) cm, lax, pendent, many flowered; flowers 3.5–4 cm in diam. Pedicels 3–5 cm, slender. Sepals narrowly ovate, 1–1.5 cm, reflexed at anthesis. Petals golden yellow, broadly ovate, subequal, 2.5–3.5 cm, shortly clawed. Stamens 10, 3 long with curved filaments 3–4 cm, anthers ca. 5 mm, exceeding petals, 4 short with straight filaments 6–10 mm, reduced stamens with minute anthers. Ovary stalked, strigulose; stigma small. Legume blackish brown, terete, sausage-shaped, indehiscent, 30–60 cm, 2.5 cm in diam. Seeds numerous, separated by papery septa, glossy brown, elliptic, flattened. 2n = 28.

Cultivated in S and SW China [native to India; cultivated throughout the tropics].

This is a common ornamental tree in the southern region. The bark contains tannin, a source of red dye. The fruit pulp and seeds are used medicinally as a laxative. The wood is hard and durable and is used for props, bridges, and farm tools.


### jia jia jue ming

Trees, deciduous. Branchlets pendulous, slender, thinly canescent. Leaves 15–30 cm; leaflets 5–8 cm; legume ca. 0.2 cm in diam.; petals pink. 2n = 28.

Cultivated in S China [Indonesia (Java), Malaysia (Peninsular), Thailand; cultivated in the neotropics].


**Cassia javanica** var. **agens** de Wit, Webbia 11: 220. 1956;
Cassieae

*C. agnes* (de Wit) Brenan.

Trees, usually more than 10 m tall, sometimes to 30 m. Leaves 25–40 cm; petiole 3–6 cm; leaflets 6–10 pairs, elliptic or oblong-elliptic, 5–8 × 2.5–3.3 cm, both surfaces pilose, base slightly asymmetric, apex shortly acuminate. Panicles 6–9 cm, terminal on young leafy shoots, composed of 6–10 racemes; bracts broadly lanceolate, 5–8 mm. Sepals broadly lanceolate, 8–10 mm. Petals pink, slightly unequal in size, 3–4.5 × 1.4–2 cm. Stamens 10, among them 3 abaxial antesepalous with filaments 3–3.5 cm, inflated in middle, 4 of medium size, filaments ca. 1/2 as long as former, not inflated at middle, other 3 smaller. Ovary long, slender, slightly pubescent. Legume terete, 30–50 × ca. 0.2 cm, with annular nodes. Seeds numerous. 2n = 28*.

Forests, mountain slopes. Guangxi, Yunnan [Laos, Thailand, Vietnam].
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