

**110. LABLAB** Adanson, Fam. Pl. 2: 325. 1763.

扁豆属 *bian dou shu*

Wu Delin (吴德邻 *Wu Te-lin*); Mats Thulin

Herbs perennial, twining or suberect. Leaves pinnately 3-foliolate; stipules basifixed, reflexed, persistent; stipels lanceolate. Racemes axillary, nodes of rachis swollen. Calyx campanulate, 2-lipped, upper lip entire or emarginate, lower 3-lobed. Corolla purple or white; standard orbicular, reflexed, auriculate at base, with 2 callosities on inner surface; wings broadly ovate; keel incurved at right angle. Stamens diadelphous; anthers uniform. Style abruptly upturned, laterally compressed, bearded in upper part; stigma terminal. Legumes obliquely oblong-falcate, compressed, with minute warts along both sutures, shallowly septate between seeds within. Seeds slightly compressed, with white aril.

One species: native to Africa, cultivated throughout the tropics including China.

**1. Lablab purpureus** (Linnaeus) Sweet, Hort. Brit. 481. 1826.

扁豆 *bian dou*

*Dolichos purpureus* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl., ed. 2, 2: 1021. 1763; *D. albus* Loureiro; *D. lablab* Linnaeus.

Herbs, twining. Stems to 6 m, usually purplish. Stipules lanceolate; leaflets deltoid-ovate, 6–10 × 6–10 cm, lateral ones oblique, base subtruncate, apex acute or acuminate. Racemes axillary, erect, 15–25 cm. Flowers 2–5 clustered at each node. Calyx ca. 6 mm, upper 2 teeth wholly connate, lower 3 sub-

equal. Corolla white or purple; standard orbicular, ca. 12 mm; wings with blade ca. 10 mm; keel base attenuate. Ovary linear; style longer than ovary. Legumes oblong-falcate, 5–7 × 1.4–1.8 cm, compressed, straight or slightly curved, beaked. Seeds 3–5, white, purple, or purple-black, oblong; hilum linear. Fl. Apr–Dec.

Widely cultivated in China [native to Africa; cultivated throughout the tropics].

This species is edible and is used medicinally.

