
硬皮豆属 ying pi dou shu

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Climbing, prostrate or erect herbs. Leaves pinnately 3-foliolate or sometimes 1-foliolate; stipules basifixed; stipels present. Flowers usually in axillary clusters or pseudoracemes. Calyx campanulate, 4- or 5-lobed; upper 2 lobes ± connate. Corolla yellow to light yellowish green, rarely becoming reddish, exserted, glabrous; standard orbicular or elliptic, usually with auricles and 2 long, linear, flat appendages; wings narrow; keel not twisted. Stamens diadelphous; anthers uniform. Ovary 3–13-ovuled; style slender, not thickened upward, bearded around stigma; stigma terminal, capitulate. Legumes straight or recurved, linear or linear-oblong, compressed, not septate. Seeds compressed; hilum short, central.

About 25 species: Africa, Asia; one species in China.


硬皮豆 ying pi dou


Perennial or annual, climbing herbs, to 60 cm tall. Stems clothed with whitish hairs. Stipules lanceolate, 4–8 mm; petiole 0.8–6.8 cm; leaflets 3, thin, ovate-rhomboid, obovate, or elliptic, oblique, 1–8 × 0.7–7.8 cm, glabrous or puberulent or rarely velutinous on both surfaces, base rounded, apex rounded or slightly acute. Flowers (1 or)2 or 3(–5) clustered in axils of leaves; peduncle and rachis of inflorescence 0–1.5 cm; bracts linear, ca. 2 mm. Calyx tube ca. 2 mm; lobes triangular-lanceolate, 3–8 mm. Standard yellow or light yellowish green, with a purple spot in middle, obovate-oblong, 6–12 × 4–7 mm; wings and keel light yellowish green. Legumes linear-oblong, 3–5.5 × 0.4–0.8 cm, puberulent or subglabrous. Seeds light or deep reddish brown, oblong or orbicular-reniform, 3–4.2 × 2.8–3.5 mm.

Scrub, dry places. S Taiwan (Pingdong) [Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka; Africa, Australia].

This species is widely cultivated in the tropics as green manure and forage.