

**33. PITHECELLOBIUM** Martius, Flora 20(2, Beibl.): 114. 1837  
[“*Pithecollobium*”], nom. cons.

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Trees [or shrubs], armed by spinescent stipules and stipels. Leaves bipinnate, not sensitive to touch; rachis and pinnae usually with extra-floral nectaries; leaflets 1 [to several] pairs per pinna. Inflorescences pedunculate heads or corymbs aggregated in terminal or axillary panicles. Flowers uniform, bisexual, 5-merous. Calyx shortly toothed. Corolla gamopetalous, 5-lobed. Stamens numerous, united into a tube at base. Ovary solitary. Legume spirally contorted [or straight], in most species dark brown outside, reddish orange within, flat, dehiscing along both sutures. Seeds brown or blackish, obovoid or asymmetric; testa hard, with a pleurogram; funicle developed into an aril.

About 18 species: indigenous to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas; one species (introduced) in China.

**1. *Pithecellobium dulce*** (Roxburgh) Benth, London J. Bot. 3: 213. 1844.

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*Mimosa dulcis* Roxburgh, Pl. Coromandel 1: 67. 1798.

Trees, evergreen. Branches often pendulous; branchlets armed with spinescent stipules. Pinnae 1 pair; glands at junction of pinnae and leaflets; leaflets sessile, 1 pair per pinna, elliptic or obovate-elliptic, 2–5 × 0.2–2.5 cm, both surfaces glabrous, reticulate veins raised abaxially, base slightly oblique, apex

obtuse or emarginate. Inflorescence pedunculate heads, aggregated in terminal panicles. Calyx funnel-shaped, 1–1.5 mm, tomentose. Corolla ca. 6 mm. Stamens numerous, connate into a tube at base. Legume blackish brown, curved into a circle, flat, 5–7 cm in diam. Seeds dark brown, shiny, ovoid-ellipsoid, ca. 1.5 cm, hard, with pleurogram. Fl. Mar–Jun, fr. Jul.  $2n = 26$ .

Cultivated in Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Jiangxi, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [native to tropical regions of C and N South America; cultivated throughout the tropics].

The timber is used for general construction and the bark for its tannins.

