

## 2. ANACARDIUM Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 383. 1753.

腰果属 yao guo shu

Evergreen trees or shrubs, andro-monoecious with functionally staminate and bisexual flowers in same inflorescence. Leaves petiolate, simple; leaf blade margin entire. Panicle terminal, frondo-bracteate with numerous branches. Calyx 5-parted, cup-shaped with pointed lobes. Petals 5, recurved at anthesis. Stamens 7–10, usually 1(or 2) noticeably larger; filament fused basally; anther broadly ellipsoid. Disk lacking. Ovary obovoid, asymmetrical, 1-locular and 1-ovulate; style 1, lateral, linear. Pedicel enlarging after anthesis into a fleshy hypocarp bearing fruit; fruit a nutlike glabrous drupe with bony endocarp.

Ten species: tropical America; one species (introduced) in China.

### 1. *Anacardium occidentale* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 383. 1753.

腰果 yao guo

Trees or shrubs, 4–10 m tall; branchlets glabrous to subglabrous. Petiole 1–1.5 cm; leaf blade obovate, 8–11 × 6–8.5 cm, leathery, glabrous on both sides, base broadly cuneate, margin entire, apex rounded, truncate to retuse, lateral veins ca. 12 pairs, reticulate venation pattern prominent on both sides. Inflorescence paniculate, 10–20 cm, glabrous to densely grayish sericeous; floral subtending bracts ovate-lanceolate, 5–10 mm, keeled, grayish sericeous abaxially, glabrous adaxially. Flower sessile to shortly pedicellate. Calyx grayish sericeous abaxially, ca. 4 × 1.5 mm. Petals 5, greenish yellow to red, linear-lanceolate, 7–9 × ca. 1.2 mm, grayish sericeous abaxially, minutely pubescent to subglabrous adaxially. Stamens 7–10, larger one 8–9 mm in male flowers, 5–6 mm in bisexual flowers, sterile stamens 3–4 mm. Ovary ca. 2 mm, glabrous; style 4–5 mm. Fleshy hypocarp 3–7 × 4–5 cm, purplish red at maturity; drupe reniform, 2–2.5 × ca. 1.5 cm. Fl. Mar–Apr, fr. Jul–Aug.

Cultivated. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Taiwan, Yunnan [native to tropical America].

The edible seeds are referred to as cashew nuts. They are surrounded by a leathery shell (mesocarp), which is rich in liquid. This substance is an important raw material for resin. The liquid contains skin-irritant toxic compounds, which are removed by heating. The fleshy hypocarp, or cashew apple, is processed into jam and dried fruit.

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