

1. *AVERRHUA* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 428. 1753.

阳桃属 yang tao shu

Trees or shrubs. Stipules absent. Leaves alternate or subopposite, odd-pinnate; leaflets nearly opposite. Inflorescences axillary or rameal, cymes or panicles. Flowers small or medium-sized, fragrant. Sepals red, semifleshy, basally connate. Petals white, pink, or purple, contorted. Stamens all fertile or 5 without anthers. Ovary several ovules per locule. Fruit a berry, oblong, usually 5-lobed. Seeds few or numerous, naked or arillate.

Two species: tropical Asia; two species (introduced) in China.

- 1a. Leaves alternate along branches; leaflets 3–7 pairs; petals 0.6–0.9 cm, inside puberulent; fruit stellate in cross section 1. *A. carambola*
1b. Leaves aggregated at apex of branches; leaflets 10–20 pairs; petals 1.3–1.8 cm, inside glabrous; fruit terete 2. *A. bilimbi*

1. *Averrhoa carambola* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 428. 1753.

阳桃 yang tao

Plants 3–12(–15) m tall, densely branched, young parts finely pubescent or glabrous. Leaves 7–25 cm; petiole 2–8 cm; leaflets (3–)5–13; petiolules 1–2.5 mm; leaflet blades ovate to elliptic, 3–8 × 1.5–4.5 cm, abaxially pubescent to nearly glabrous, base obliquely rounded, apex acute to acuminate. Inflorescences axillary or rameal, panicles or cymes, branches and flower buds crimson. Flowers numerous, small. Sepals narrowly elliptic, 3–5 mm, base sparingly pubescent. Petals white with purple markings or pink to red with darker markings, 6–9 × 3–4 mm. Shorter stamens sterile, occasionally 1 or 2 fertile. Ovary pubescent. Berry yellow to yellow-brown, oblong, 7–13 × 5–8 cm, deeply (3–)5(or 6)-ribbed, stellate in cross section, very fleshy. Seeds numerous, blackish brown. Fl. Apr–Dec, fr. Jul–Dec.

Cultivated areas, sometimes escaping to roadsides and secondary open forests; below 1000 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan [native to tropical SE Asia].

This species is cultivated throughout the tropics for its fruit, for which there are many cultivars differing in size and flavor.

2. *Averrhoa bilimbi* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 428. 1753.

三敛 san lian

Plants 5–6(–15) m tall, young parts and petioles rusty pubescent. Leaves 15–40 cm, aggregated at apex of branches; petiole 2–4 mm; leaflets 10–20 pairs; leaflet blades oblong to lanceolate, 3–5 × ca. 2 cm, both surfaces somewhat pubescent, base obliquely rounded, apex acuminate. Inflorescences rameal, paniculate, many flowered. Sepals ovate-lanceolate, ca. 4 mm, pubescent. Petals reddish purple, 13–18 × ca. 3 mm. Stamens all fertile. Berry greenish yellow, oblong, 5–10 cm, terete to obscurely 5-angled, fleshy. Seeds few, flat. Fl. Apr–Dec, fr. Jul–Dec.

Widely cultivated and freely escaping along rivers and in secondary vegetations. Guangdong, Guangxi, Taiwan [native to tropical SE Asia].

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