

46. **HEVEA** Aublet, Hist. Pl. Guiane 2: 871. 1775.

橡胶树属 *xiang jiao shu shu*

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Caoutchoua Gmelin; *Siphonia* Richard.

Trees, monoecious, with much milky latex. Leaves alternate, spirally arranged, or subopposite at apex of branches; stipules small, caducous; petiole long, glandular at apex; leaf blade palmately compound, usually 3-foliolate; leaflets entire, petiolulate. Inflorescence in axils of leaves or fallen leaves, many-flowered panicles of cymes, central flower of each cyme female, others male. Male flower: bud subglobose or ovate-globose; sepals 5-dentate or 5-lobed, lobes valvate; disk small, 5-lobed or dissected, rarely indehiscent; stamens 5–10; filaments connate into column longer than anthers; anthers sessile, in 1 or 2 series. Female flowers: sepals as in male; female disk dissected or obsolete; ovary 3-celled; ovules 1 per cell; styles usually absent; stigmas stout. Capsules large, usually 3-valved; epicarp subfleshy; endocarp woody. Seeds oblong-elliptic, maculate-striate; caruncle absent; cotyledon broad and flattened.

About ten species: Amazonian South America, one species widely cultivated throughout the tropics; one species (introduced) in China.

1. *Hevea brasiliensis* (Willdenow ex A. Jussieu) Müller Argoviensis, Linnaea 34: 204. 1865.

橡胶树 *xiang jiao shu*

Siphonia brasiliensis Willdenow ex A. Jussieu, Euphorb. Gen. t. 12. 1824.

Large trees, up to 30 m tall, with much milky juice. Petiole 5–15 cm, apex usually with 2(–4) glands; leaflets 3, elliptic, 10–25 × 4–10 cm, both surfaces glabrous, base cuneate, margin entire, apex acute to acuminate; lateral veins 10–16, reticulate veins prominent. Panicles axillary, to 16 cm, gray-white pubescent. Male flowers: sepals ovate-lanceolate, ca. 2 mm; stamens

10, in 2 series; anthers 2-locular, longitudinally dehiscent. Female flowers: sepals as in male, but larger; ovary (2 or)3(–6)-locular; stigmas 3, sessile. Capsules ellipsoidal, 5–6 cm in diam., with 3 longitudinal grooves, apex rostrate, base retuse; epicarp thinner, with reticulate stripes; endocarp thicker, woody. Seeds ellipsoidal, gray-brownish, maculate-striate. Fl. May–Jun, fr. Aug–Sep.

Cultivated. S Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Taiwan, Yunnan [native to Brazil; widely introduced throughout the tropics].

This species is cultivated in great numbers for the production of rubber.

Fl. China 11: 264–265. 2008.