

6. MAYTENUS Molina, Sag. Stor. Nat. Chili, 177, 349. 1782.

美登木属 mei deng mu shu

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Shrubs or small trees, usually erect, rarely viny or climbing, glabrous, rarely pubescent, branches often inermous. Leaves alternate, often disitichous, coriaceous, serrate, petiolate; stipules small, caducous. Inflorescences axillary, fasciculate, cymose, rarely racemose, or flowers solitary. Flowers white-green, bisexual, 5-merous. Disk fleshy, annular, undulate or 5-lobed, intrastaminal; anthers longitudinally dehiscent, introrse. Ovary usually 2-locular, rarely 3- or 4-locular, base confluent with disk; ovules erect, often 1 per locule. Capsule obovoid or ellipsoid, leathery, loculicidally dehiscent. Seeds 1–4, ellipsoid; aril basal to enveloping seed.

About 220 species: tropics and subtropics of America, temperate Australasia; six species (five endemic) in China.

- 1a. Capsule globose or subglobose, inflated; cymes terminal ..... 1. *M. inflata*
- 1b. Capsule obovoid or triangular-globose, not inflated; cymes usually axillary.
  - 2a. Cymes solitary; peduncle longer than 1 cm ..... 2. *M. austroyunnanensis*
  - 2b. Cymes several, fascicled; peduncle absent or very short, 2–5 mm.
    - 3a. Capsule 2-valved; cymes often 4–6-fascicled; peduncles, branches, and pedicels tenuous; peduncle 2–5 mm ..... 3. *M. hookeri*
    - 3b. Capsule 3-valved; cymes numerous, densely fascicled; peduncles, branches, and pedicels slightly sturdy; peduncle very short or absent.
      - 4a. Leaf blade elliptic or ovate-elliptic; peduncle very short; each cyme 2–4 × branched; thorns erect ..... 4. *M. guangxiensis*
      - 4b. Leaf blade broadly elliptic or obovate; peduncle usually absent; each cyme 2 or 3 × branched; thorns somewhat decurved.
        - 5a. Vinelike shrubs; flowers growing on old branches; thorns decurved, hooked; netting veins obvious ..... 5. *M. hainanensis*
        - 5b. Shrubs; flowers growing on annual or biennial branches; thorns slightly decurved; netting veins not obvious ..... 6. *M. confertiflora*

1. *Maytenus inflata* S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li, Res. Bull. Trop. Pl. 13: 14. 1979.

胀果美登木 zhang guo mei deng mu

Shrubs, 3–4 m tall; branches cinereous or cinereous-brown. Leaf blade elliptic or elliptic-lanceolate, 7–14 × 3–7 cm, membranous, base cuneate or narrowly cuneate, margin crenate, apex acuminate; lateral veins 8–13 pairs, webbing with veinlets, obvious on both surfaces. Cymes terminal, dichotomous or trichotomous; fructiferous cymes ca. 4 cm; peduncles and pedicels nearly equal in length. Capsule subglobose, ca. 1.5 cm in diam., inflated, valves thinly leathery. Fr. Dec.

• Mountain slopes; ca. 1200 m. Yunnan.

2. *Maytenus austroyunnanensis* S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li, Res. Bull. Trop. Pl. 13: 14. 1979.

滇南美登木 dian nan mei deng mu

*Maytenus diversicymosa* S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li; *M. pachycarpa* S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li; *M. shuangjiangensis* S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li.

Shrubs, 1–3 m tall; twigs usually unarmed, old branches typically thorny, thorns needlelike or slightly sturdy, erect or somewhat decurved. Petiole 5–7 mm; leaf blade obovate-elliptic, elliptic, or oblong-lanceolate, 7–12 × 4–5.5 cm, subleathery or leathery, base cuneate or narrowly cuneate, margin serrate or obtusely serrate, apex acute or obtuse, or with small mucro; lateral veins 7–13 pairs, veinlets not obvious. Cymes usually 2

or 3 × dichotomously branched, 1–3-flowered; peduncle sturdy, rarely slender, usually 1–2 cm; pedicel slender 4–6 mm, slightly elongate when fruiting. Flowers white, 5–8 mm in diam.; sepals broadly ovate; petals oblong-ovate. Capsule obovoid, ca. 1.2 cm, 3-valved. Seeds red-brown; aril white, yellowish when dry. Fl. May–Sep, fr. Sep–Dec.

• Mountain slopes, riverside scrub, roadsides; 500–1100 m. Yunnan.

3. *Maytenus hookeri* Loesener in Engler & Prantl, Nat. Pflanzenfam., ed. 2, 20(b): 140. 1942.

美登木 mei deng mu

*Gymnosporia acuminata* J. D. Hooker ex M. A. Lawson, Fl. Brit. India 1: 619. 1875, not *Maytenus acuminata* (Linnaeus) Loesener (1942); *Maytenus hookeri* var. *longiradiata* S. J. Pei & Y. H. Li.

Shrubs, 1–4 m tall; twigs slender, sometimes trailing, sparsely thorny or unarmed, older branches typically thorny. Petiole 5–12 mm; leaf blade elliptic or oblong-ovate, 8–20 × 3.5–8 cm, papery, or thinly papery, base cuneate or broadly cuneate, margin crenate, apex acuminate; lateral veins tenuous, 5–8 pairs. Cymes 1–6, fascicled, each cyme 2–4(or 5) × monochasially branched or once dichotomously branched; peduncle slender, various in length, 2–5(–10) mm, sometimes absent; pedicel slender, 3–5 mm, 1–1.2 cm when fruiting. Flowers small, white-green, 3–5 mm in diam. Filament ca. 2 mm. Ovary 2-celled; stigma 2-lobed. Capsule obovoid, flat, 0.6–1.2 cm, usually 2-valved. Seeds oblong-ovate; aril white, yellowish

when dry. Fl. Dec–Jun, fr. Jun–Nov.

Sparse forests, mountain slopes, mountain valleys; 600–1200 m. Yunnan [Bhutan, India (Darjeeling)].

This species is used for medicinal purposes.

**4. *Maytenus guangxiensis*** C. Y. Cheng & W. L. Sha, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 19: 232. 1981.

广西美登木 *guang xi mei deng mu*

Shrubs, to 3 m tall; twigs thorny, thorns sturdy. Petiole 5–13 mm; leaf blade elliptic or ovate-elliptic, 6.5–21 × 3.5–10 cm, thickly papery, base broadly cuneate or subrounded, margin crenate, apex acute or obtuse; lateral veins tenuous, 8 or 9 pairs. Cymes fascicled, 2–4 × branched, 7–25-flowered; peduncle short, branches ca. 1 cm; pedicel 3–8 mm; bracts and bractlets small, broadly ovate, ca. 1 mm. Flowers white, 6–8 mm in diam.; sepals ovate-rounded, ciliate; petals oblong, erose. Disk thick. Filament ca. 2.5 mm. Ovary with obvious style; stigma 3-lobed. Capsule purple-brown, obovoid, 1.4–1.8 × 1–1.2 cm, 3-valved. Seeds red-brown, elliptic or ovate-elliptic, 6–8 × ca. 5 mm, covered by white aril at base. Fl. Nov–Dec.

• Dry calcareous mountain slopes, scrub. Guangxi.

The leaves of this species are used medicinally.

**5. *Maytenus hainanensis*** (Merrill & Chun) C. Y. Cheng in C. Y. Cheng & P. H. Huang, Fl. Reipubl. Popularis Sin. 45(3): 146. 1999.

海南美登木 *hai nan mei deng mu*

*Gymnosporia hainanensis* Merrill & Chun, Sunyatsenia 2: 267. 1935.

Shrubs, inclined, or vinelike with age, old branches thorny, thorns sturdy, decurved, hooked. Petiole sturdy, longer than ca. 1 mm; leaf blade oblong-obovate, 10–16 × 4–9 cm, leathery, base narrowly cuneate, margin nearly entire or repand-serrate, apex shortly acuminate. Flowers not seen. Fructiferous cymes fascicled, 2 or 3 × branched; peduncle nearly absent, branches sturdy, ca. 1 cm; pedicel stout, ca. 1 × 1.5 mm. Capsule triangular-globose, ca. 1.5 × 1.8 cm, 3-valved, valves rigid and thick, obviously reticulate. Seeds obovate, ca. 5 mm, red-brown, covered by orange aril at base. Fr. May.

• Sparse forests. Hainan.

**6. *Maytenus confertiflora*** J. Y. Luo & X. X. Chen, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 19: 233. 1981.

密花美登木 *mi hua mei deng mu*

Shrubs, to 4 m tall; twigs thorny, thorns sturdy, erect or sometimes slightly decurved. Petiole 6–10 mm; leaf blade broadly elliptic or obovate, 11–24 × 3–9 cm, papery, base cuneate, margin crenate, apex shortly acuminate; lateral veins tenuous, 9–13 pairs. Cymes numerous, fascicled at axils, ca. 60-flowered, subglobose, 1–1.5 cm; peduncle very short or absent; branches and pedicel tenuous, 4–6 mm; bracts and bractlets small, margin fimbriate. Flowers small, white, 8–10 mm in diam.; sepals triangular-ovate, purplish; petals oblong, ca. 4 × 2 mm. Filament ca. 2 mm. Stigma 3-lobed. Capsule purplish brown, obovoid, 1–1.5 cm, 3-valved. Seeds oblong, covered by white aril at base. Fl. Nov–Dec.

• Dry calcareous mountain slopes and jungles. Guangxi.

The leaves of this species are used medicinally.

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