

### 3. SWIETENIA Jacquin, Enum. Syst. Pl. 4. 1760.

桃花心木属 tao hua xin mu shu

Peng Hua (彭华); David J. Mabberley

Trees, deciduous. Wood red. Leaves in spirals, even-pinnate, glabrous; leaflets opposite to subopposite. Inflorescences axillary or subterminal thyrses. Flowers small. Calyx small, 5-parted to middle, imbricate. Petals (4 or)5, distinct, broad, imbricate. Staminal tube cup-shaped, apically (8 or)10-lobed; anthers (8 or)10, inserted on inside of tube throat, alternate with lobes. Disk annular. Ovary ovoid, (4 or)5(or 6)-locular, with 9–16 pendulous ovules per locule; style cylindrical; stigma disciform with (4 or)5 lobes. Capsule oblong or ovoid, 5-locular, woody. Seeds 9–16 per locule, winged, hanging by wing-end from distal part of columella; endosperm ± fleshy; cotyledons thin; radicle very short.

Three species: tropical W Africa, tropical and subtropical America; one species (introduced) in China.

**1. Swietenia mahagoni** (Linnaeus) Jacquin, Enum. Syst. Pl. 20. 1760.

桃花心木 tao hua xin mu

*Cedrela mahagoni* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 2: 940. 1759.

Trees to 25 m tall, to 4 m d.b.h., base buttressed. Bark slightly red, scalelike. Branches gray, expanding, smooth. Leaves alternate, ca. 35 cm; petiole 3–6 mm, thin, glabrous, base slightly swelling; leaflets 8–12; leaflet blades ovate to lanceolate, 10–16 × 4–6 cm, leathery, glabrous to sparsely pubescent, abaxially light green, adaxially dark green, secondary veins 10 on each side of midvein, base oblique, margin entire or with 1 or 2 serrations, apex long acuminate. Thyrses axillary, 6–15 cm, glabrous, with short and lax branchlets. Flowers small. Pedicel ca. 3 mm. Calyx cup-shaped, 5-lobed; lobes short and truncate, apex rounded. Petals greenish white, obovate, 3–4 mm, glabrous. Staminal tube subcylindric, glabrous; anthers 10. Disk annular. Ovary conic to ovoid, longer than disk, with 12 ovules per locule; style longer than ovary, glabrous; stigma disciform. Capsule brown, ovoid, ca. 8 cm in diam., many seeded. Seeds apically winged, ca. 7 cm including wing. Fl. May–Jun, fr. Oct–Nov.

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

The identity of the trees cultivated in China needs to be confirmed as some of them may be *Swietenia macrophylla* King.

The wood, the original mahogany, is used for fine quality cabinet-work.

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