

12. ALPHITONIA Reissek ex Endlicher, Gen. Pl. 1098. 1840.

麦珠子属 mai zhu zi shu

Trees or shrubs, evergreen. Buds and young branches often ± densely brownish pubescent. Leaves alternate, with small, caducous stipules; leaf blade ovate to obovate or elliptic to lanceolate, rarely nearly cordate, papery to leathery, pinnately veined, abaxially usually glabrous, adaxially whitish to rusty pubescent, margin entire. Flowers bisexual, 5-merous, many in di- or trichotomous, axillary or rarely terminal cymes. Calyx tube patelliform to hemispherical; sepals 5, triangular, adaxially keeled. Petals 5, clawed, cucullate. Stamens 5, enfolded by petals. Disk mainly thick, nectariferous. Ovary inferior, immersed in disk, 2- or 3-loculed, with 1 ovule per locule; style short, often divided into 2 to 3 slightly capitate styler branches, basally often densely whitish to yellowish pubescent or glabrous. Fruits drupaceous, globose or broadly ovoid, at base surrounded by persistent calyx tube; mesocarp thick, initially fleshy, later dry and mealy; endocarp splitting longitudinally into 2 or 3, hard, leathery, 1-seeded endocarps. Seeds ± completely enclosed by a membranous, reddish to brownish aril; testa smooth, crustaceous; embryo straight; endocarp cartilaginous.

About ten species: SE Asia, Australia, Pacific islands; one species in China.

1. *Alphitonia incana* (Roxburgh) Teijsmann & Binnendijk ex Kurz, J. Bot. 11: 208. 1873.

麦珠子 mai zhu zi

Rhamnus incana Roxburgh, Fl. Ind. 2: 350. 1824 [“*incanus*”]; *Alphitonia excelsa* (Fenzl) Reissek ex Endlicher; *A. philippinensis* Braid; *Ceanothus excelsus* (Fenzl) Steudel; *Columbrina excelsa* Fenzl.

Trees, small to medium-sized, evergreen, rarely to 30 m tall. Young branches ± densely yellowish to whitish pubescent. Leaves alternate, papery to subleathery; petiole 9–15 mm, densely pubescent; leaf blade 7–13 × 2.5–5 cm, ovate-lanceolate or ovate-elliptic, abaxially yellowish pubescent, adaxially ferruginous tomentose when young, glabrescent, primary veins prominent abaxially, impressed adaxially, lateral veins 11–15 pairs, base acute or obtuse to rounded, margin entire or slightly undulate, apex acute to shortly acuminate. Flowers light green to yellowish, 4–5 mm in diam., bisexual, 5-merous, in terminal or axillary cymes. Pedicel 1–2 mm. Calyx tube shallowly hemispherical, outside densely brownish pubescent; sepals triangular, ca. 1.5 mm, adaxially ± distinctly keeled. Petals erect to recurved, spatulate, ca. as long as stamens, clawed. Disk pentagonal, shallow, lining calyx tube, glandular. Ovary obconical, ± completely immersed in disk, 2- or 3-loculed; style

conical, nearly to half divided into 2 or 3 slightly capitate styler branches. Drupe greenish when young, black at maturity, globose to broadly ovoid, 1–1.2(–1.4) cm in diam., basally surrounded by persistent calyx tube; exocarp irregularly dehiscent, with 2 or 3 woody locules, along ventral suture dehiscent at maturity, locules 1-seeded; fruiting pedicel 3–4 mm. Seeds red, shiny, with membranous aril, often permanently attached to receptacle after fruit dehiscence. Fl. Oct–Dec, fr. Mar–May of following year.

Sparse forests on mountains and hills; middle elevations. Hainan [Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines].

The trees grow rapidly when young. This species is a good source of fine wood for making furniture.

