

## 11. AMBROMA Linnaeus f., Suppl. Pl. 54. 1782.

昂天莲属 ang tian lian shu

Trees or shrubs. Leaves cordate or ovate-elliptic, entire or serrate, sometimes palmately lobed. Inflorescence leaf-opposed or terminal, several-flowered. Flowers bisexual. Sepals 5, divided to near base. Petals 5, red-purple, abruptly narrowed below middle, lower part deeply concave, glandular, basally connate with staminodes, upper part narrower, spatulate. Stamens 15; filaments connate into tube enclosing pistil; anthers in 5 groups of 3 on outer part of filament tube alternating with staminodes; staminodes 5, apex obtuse, margin ciliate. Ovary sessile, 5-grooved, 5-celled; ovules many per cell; style 5-lobed. Capsule membranous, 5-angular or longitudinally 5-winged, apex truncate, dehiscence loculicidal, apical. Seeds many, with endosperm; cotyledons flat, cordate.

One or two species: tropical Asia to Australia; one species in China.

This generic name is sometimes given as "*Abroma*" (Jacquin, Hort. Bot. Vindob. 3: 3. 1776) but, as explained by Fosberg (Micronesica 2: 150. 1966), Jacquin did not validly publish either that name or "*Abroma fastuosum*" (Jacquin, loc. cit.).

**1. *Ambroma augustum*** (Linnaeus) Linnaeus f., Suppl. Pl. 341. 1782 [*"augusta"*].

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*Theobroma augustum* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, 3: 233. 1768 [*"augusta"*].

Shrubs, 1–4 m tall. Branchlets densely stellate velutinous when young. Stipules linear, 5–10 mm, caducous; petiole 1–10 cm; leaf blade cordate or ovate-cordate, sometimes 3–5-lobed, 10–22 × 9–18 cm, abaxially glabrous or sparsely stellate, adaxially densely puberulent, basal veins 3–7, prominently raised on both surfaces, base cordate or obliquely cordate, apex acute or acuminate. Inflorescence cymose, 1–5-flowered. Flowers ca. 5 cm in diam., pendulous. Sepals lanceolate, 15–18 mm, both sur-

faces densely puberulent. Petals dark reddish purple, ca. 2.5 cm, basal part as broad as long and hairy, upper part elliptic-spatulate, apex acute or obtuse. Staminodes nearly spatulate, both surfaces hairy. Ovary oblong, ca. 1.5 mm, slightly hairy, 5-grooved; style triangular-tongue-shaped, 1/2 as long as ovary. Capsule erect, obconic, 3–6 cm in diam., stellate hairy, 5-winged, cuplike after dehiscence, margins villous. Seeds oblong, black, ca. 2 mm. Fl. spring and summer.

Forest margins, valley gullies. Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan [Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam; Australia, Pacific islands].

The bark of this species provides a high-quality fiber used for making rope and fishing lines. It is also a medicinal plant, used in particular for the treatment of diabetes, and is grown as an ornamental.

