

3. **CEIBA** Miller, Gard. Dict. Abr., ed. 4, [287]. 1754.

吉贝属 *ji bei shu*

*Chorisia* Kunth; *Eriodendron* Candolle.

Trees, deciduous; trunk swollen and/or buttressed, trunk and branches usually spiny. Petiole long; leaf blade palmately compound; leaflets 3–5(–9), shortly petiolulate, both surfaces glabrous, abaxially gray-white, base attenuate, margin serrate or entire. Flowers blooming before or simultaneously with leaf flush, solitary or 2–15-fascicled, pendulous, axillary or subterminal, actinomorphic, rarely zygomorphic. Calyx campanulate, truncate or irregularly 3–5(–12)-lobed, thickly fleshy, persistent. Petals 5, pink or yellow-white, connate at base and coherent to staminal tube, falling with stamens and style. Stamens (3–)5–15; filament tube short, sometimes thickened or with sterile appendages, free parts of filament long to absent, each bearing 2(or 3) straight to strongly twisted thecae. Ovary syncarpous, 5-locular; ovules many per cell; style filiform; stigma capitate to lobulate. Capsule oblong or nearly obovate, pendulous, woody or leathery, loculicidally dehiscent into 5(or 6) valves, inner walls densely woolly. Seeds many, enclosed in wool.

Seventeen species: W Africa (one species) and tropical America (16 species); one species (introduced) in China.

1. ***Ceiba pentandra*** (Linnaeus) Gaertner, Fruct. Sem. Pl. 2: 244. 1791.

吉贝 *ji bei*

*Bombax pentandrum* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 511. 1753; *Eriodendron anfractuosum* Candolle.

Trees to 30 m tall; buttresses small or absent, trunk often sparsely spiny; main branches verticillate, spreading horizontally; young branches spiny. Petiole 7–14(–25) cm, longer than leaflet blade; leaflets 5–9, petiolules 3–4(–10) mm; blades oblong to lanceolate, 5–20 × 1.5–6.5 cm, thinly leathery, glabrous, base acuminate, margin entire or very sparsely and minutely toothed near apex, apex shortly acuminate. Flowers subterminal, solitary or in fascicles of up to 15, produced before or simultaneous with new leaves. Pedicel (1.8–)2.5–5 cm. Calyx (0.9–)1.2–2 cm, adaxially glabrous. Petals pink or white, obovate-oblong, 2.5–4 × 0.7–1.5 cm, abaxially densely white villous, adaxially glabrous. Filaments on staminal tube varying in length; anthers reniform. Ovary glabrous; style 2.5–3.5 cm; stigma rod-shaped, 5-lobed. Capsule oblong, tapering toward tip, 7.5–15(–26) × 3–5(–11) cm, fruiting pedicel 7–25 cm, endocarp leathery, smooth. Seeds globose, ca. 6 mm in diam. Fl. Mar–Apr.

Cultivated. Guangdong, Guangxi, Yunnan [native to tropical America and possibly West Africa; now pantropical, regarded as invasive on some Pacific islands].

This species is grown as a street tree and for the waterproof fibers surrounding the seeds (kapok).

