

13. COLUBRINA Richard ex Brongniart, Mém. Fam. Rhamnées, 61. 1826, nom. cons.

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Trees, shrubs, or scandent shrubs, deciduous or evergreen, always unarmed. Leaves alternate to rarely opposite, papery to subleathery; stipules minute, early deciduous; margin entire, serrate or crenate; venation pinnate or 3-veined from base. Flowers bisexual, 5-merous, mainly few in axillary cymes or small thyrses, sessile or shortly pedunculate. Calyx tube hemispherical; sepals 5, triangular, abaxially rather densely pubescent, adaxially conspicuously keeled, deciduous. Petals 5, erect to spreading, clawed. Stamens 5, ca. as long as petals; anthers dorsifixed, dehiscent introrsely. Disk massive, fleshy, adnate to calyx tube. Ovary semi-inferior, 3(or 4)-loculed, with 1 ovule per locule; style 3-lobed to 3-fid. Fruit a subglobose capsule; mesocarp thin, dry or rather fleshy; endocarp cartilaginous to woody, splitting explosively or slowly into 3 ventrally dehiscent, 1-seeded endocarps. Seeds shiny, broadly obovoid, rarely with a minute aril; testa leathery to bony; endosperm fleshy, thick.

About 23 species: tropical areas of Africa, S Asia, Australia, Pacific islands, and South America; two species in China.

- 1a. Young branchlets, petioles, inflorescences, and leaves glabrous; leaf blade ovate to broadly ovate or cordate; fruiting pedicel 4–6 mm 1. *C. asiatica*
1b. Young branchlets, petioles, inflorescences, and leaves abaxially at least on veins pubescent or densely pubescent; leaf blade ovate-elliptic; fruiting pedicel 8–12 mm 2. *C. javanica*

1. *Colubrina asiatica* (Linnaeus) Brongniart, Mém. Fam. Rhamnées, 62. 1826.

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Ceanothus asiaticus Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 196. 1753.

Shrubs scandent, evergreen. Young branchlets glabrous. Leaves alternate; petiole 1–1.6 cm, pilose; leaf blade ovate, broadly ovate, or cordate, 4–8 × 2–5 cm, submembranous or thinly papery, both surfaces glabrous or subglabrous, venation pinnate, secondary veins 2 or 3 pairs, prominent on both surfaces, base rounded or subcordate, margin coarsely crenate, apex acuminate, emarginate. Flowers yellow, 5-merous, few in axillary thyrses. Pedicel 2–3 mm. Calyx tube hemispherical; sepals 5, triangular, adaxially distinctly keeled. Petals 5, obovate, cucullate, ca. as long as stamens, clawed. Stamens 5. Disk fleshy. Ovary immersed in stout disk, 2- or 3-loculed; style ± deeply 2- or 3-fid. Capsule globose, 7–9 mm in diam., basally surrounded by remains of calyx tube, loculicidally dehiscent at maturity; locules 1-seeded; fruiting pedicel 4–6 mm. Seeds grayish brown. Fl. Jun–Sep, fr. Sep–Dec.

Forests and thickets, along beaches; sea level. S Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Taiwan [India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand; Africa, Australia, Pacific islands, West Indies (Greater and Lesser Antilles); an almost pantropical species reported for many coasts of the New and Old World Tropics].

2. *Colubrina javanica* Miquel, Fl. Ned. Ind. 1(1): 648. 1856.

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Colubrina asiatica (Linnaeus) Brongniart var. *subpubescens* (Pitard) M. C. Johnston; *C. pubescens* Kurz (1872), not (Ruiz & Pavón) G. Don (1832); *C. pubescens* var. *subpubescens* Pitard.

Shrubs evergreen. Young branchlets, annual branches, and inflorescences densely pubescent. Leaves alternate; petiole 8–15 mm, densely pubescent; leaf blade ovate-elliptic, 4–8 × 1.5–3 cm, thinly papery or submembranous, abaxially pubescent on veins, adaxially glabrous, secondary veins 3–5 pairs, base rounded or broadly cuneate, margin inconspicuously remotely serrulate, apex acuminate. Flowers bisexual, 5-merous, in axillary cymes; peduncles 1–3 mm. Pedicels 2–3 mm. Calyx tube hemispherical; sepals triangular, adaxially keeled. Petals obovate, ca. as long as stamens. Disk thick, rounded. Ovary semi-inferior, immersed in disk; styles 3-cleft. Capsule ca. 8 mm in diam., basally almost up to middle surrounded by remnants of calyx tube, 3-loculed; locules 1-seeded, loculicidally dehiscent at maturity; fruiting pedicel 8–12 mm.

Riverbanks. S Yunnan (Lancang Jiang) [Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand].

Johnston (Brittonia 23: 2–53. 1971) transferred this species into the synonymy of *Colubrina asiatica*. Because of the differences in habitat (*C. asiatica* is exclusively found along tropical coasts, whereas *C. javanica* may occur in uplands quite distant from the coast) and the differences in indumentum and length of fruiting pedicels, we decided to maintain it as a separate species.

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