

5. MALVASTRUM A. Gray, Mem. Amer. Acad. Arts, n.s., 4: 21. 1849, nom. cons.

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Malveopsis C. Presl.

Herbs perennial (sometimes annual) or subshrubs, erect. Leaves simple; stipules lanceolate or falcate; leaf blade ovate or lanceolate, entire or sometimes obscurely 3-lobed, margin crenate or dentate; foliar nectaries lacking. Flowers axillary, solitary or in cymose clusters, sometimes aggregated into terminal spikes. Epicalyx lobes 3, free, subulate or filiform to lanceolate. Calyx cup-shaped, 5-lobed. Corolla yellow or ± orange, broadly campanulate; petals 5, scarcely longer than calyx. Filament tube included within corolla, glabrous or puberulent; anthers clustered at apex. Ovary 5–18-loculed; ovules 1 per locule; styles as many as carpels, slender; stigmas capitate. Fruit a schizocarp, oblate; mericarps 5–18, indehiscent, reddish brown, horseshoe-shaped with a prominent ventral notch, sometimes 2- or 3-cuspidate. Seeds solitary, reniform, glabrous.

Fourteen species: principally in North, Central, and South America, a few ± pantropical weeds; two species (both introduced) in China.

- 1a. Flowers axillary, solitary (or in few-flowered clusters); mericarps each with 3 prominent cusps, 2 abaxial and 1 apical; stipules lanceolate, 5–7 mm 1. *M. coromandelianum*
1b. Flowers subterminal, congested into terminal spike; mericarps without cusps; stipules filiform, 4–5 mm 2. *M. americanum*

1. *Malvastrum coromandelianum* (Linnaeus) Garcke, Bonplandia (Hanover) 5: 297. 1857.

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Malva coromandeliana Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 687. 1753; *M. tricuspidata* R. Brown; *Malvastrum ruderale* Hance ex Walpers; *M. tricuspidatum* (R. Brown) A. Gray.

Subshrubs, sometimes annual, to 1(–1.5) m tall, most parts pilose and appressed stellate pubescent. Stipules lanceolate, 5–7 mm; petiole 0.7–3 cm, densely pilose; leaf blade ovate-lanceolate or ovate, 3–7 × 0.8–4 cm, abaxially pilose and stellate pilose, adaxially sparsely hairy, base broadly cuneate to rounded, margin coarsely dentate, apex acute or obtuse. Flowers axillary, solitary. Pedicel 3–5(–10) mm, pilose. Epicalyx lobes filiform, ca. 5 × 1 mm, pilose. Calyx shallowly cup-shaped, 5–7 mm in flower, accrescent to 8–11 mm in fruit, lobes ovate, ca. 8 mm, abaxially sparsely pubescent with stellate hairs, adaxially nearly glabrous, apex acuminate. Corolla apricot-yellow, ca. 1.5 cm in diam.; petals obovate, 6–9 × ca. 4 mm. Filament tube ca. 6 mm, glabrous. Schizocarp ca. 6 mm in diam.; mericarps 8–12(–14), reniform, sparsely pubescent with simple hairs mixed with stellate hairs, ca. 2.5 mm in diam., 3-cusped (2 abaxial, 1 apical), endoglossum lacking. Seeds ca. 1 mm in diam.

Weed of fallow fields, dry and open wastelands, or roadsides; near sea level to 500 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Taiwan, Yunnan [India, Japan (Ryuku Islands), Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam; probably originating in America, now pantropical].

Chinese material can be referred to *Malvastrum coromandelianum* subsp. *coromandelianum*; two further subspecies are recorded from South America.

The whole plant is used medicinally.

2. *Malvastrum americanum* (Linnaeus) Torrey, Rep. U. S. Mex. Bound. 2(1): 38. 1859.

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Malva americana Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 687. 1753; *M. spicata* Linnaeus; *Malvastrum spicatum* (Linnaeus) A. Gray; *Melochia spicata* (Linnaeus) Fryxell; *Sphaeralcea americana*

(Linnaeus) Metz.

Herbs, perennial, or subshrubs, 0.5–1(–3) m, most parts principally stellate pubescent, also with some simple hairs. Stipules filiform, 4–5 mm; petiole 0.5–3.5 cm; leaf blade ovate to oblong, rarely slightly 3-lobed, 2–6(–7) × 1.2–4(–6) cm, both surfaces stellate pubescent, base acute, obtuse, or truncate to slightly cordate, margin serrate, apex acute to acuminate. Flowers congested into a dense short terminal spike, 1.5–3(–10) × ca. 1 cm, usually only 1 flower open at a time. Epicalyx lobes filiform to lanceolate, acuminate, 8–10 × 1.5–2.5 mm, abaxially hispid with simple or bifurcate hairs and minute stellate hairs, adaxially glabrous. Calyx shallowly cup-shaped, 5–6 mm in diam., accrescent to 6–10 mm in fruit, lobes triangular, ca. 4 × 3 mm, abaxially densely hirsute, adaxially minutely stellate pubescent, apex acuminate. Corolla yellow, 1.3–1.7 cm in diam.; petals obliquely obovate, claw stellate ciliate, apex asymmetrically emarginate. Filament tube 2–3 mm, stellate pubescent. Mericarps (5–)8–15(–18), nearly orbicular, (1–)2–2.5 × 1.5–3(–5) mm in diam., cusps absent, endoglossum usually present, minute. Seeds gray, reniform, 1.2–1.7 mm in diam., glabrous.

Weed of semi-arid areas. Fujian, Taiwan [India, Indonesia, Philippines; Australia, North and South America; naturalized pantropical weed].

Chinese material can be referred to *Malvastrum americanum* var. *americanum*. *Malvastrum americanum* var. *stellatum* S. R. Hill is restricted to Australia.

Flora of China 12: 269–270. 2007.