

**3. HYLOCEREUS** (A. Berger) Britton & Rose, Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb. 12: 428. 1909.

量天尺属 liang tian chi shu

*Cereus* subg. *Hylocereus* A. Berger, Rep. (Annual) Missouri Bot. Gard. 16: 72. 1905.

Plants climbing, scrambling, or epiphytic. Stems branched, usually 3-winged or -angled, margins often horny, often producing numerous aerial roots. Areoles spaced far apart in notches along wings or angles. Spines short or rarely absent. Leaves absent. Flowers usually nocturnal, white or rarely red, funnellform, large. Receptacle tube usually elongate, stout, with broad, leaflike scales. Stamens numerous, inserted in receptacle tube and perianth throat, shorter than perianth. Placentas parietal; stigmas numerous, sometimes 2-fid or flabellate. Fruit globose, ellipsoid, or ovoid, large, fleshy, spineless, with broad scales. Seeds numerous, ovate-reniform; testa glossy black, smooth or minutely spotted.

About 15 species: from Mexico and the West Indies to South America; four species cultivated in China, of which one species naturalized in southern areas.

**1. *Hylocereus undatus*** (Haworth) Britton & Rose, Fl. Bermuda, 256. 1918.

量天尺 liang tian chi

*Cereus undatus* Haworth, Philos. Mag. Ann. Chem. 7: 110. 1830.

Plants clambering or sprawling. Stems deep green, 3–15 m. Joints 20–50 × 3–8(–12) cm, winged or angled, margins of wings or angles coarsely crenate, horny. Areoles 3–6 cm apart,

2–5 mm in diam. Spines 1–3(–6) per areole, spreading in various directions, gray-brown, conic to subulate, 2–5(–10) mm. Flowers 25–30 × 15–34 cm. Receptacle tube funnellform. Sepaloids with greenish midrib and mostly white margin, lanceolate-linear to linear, 10–15 × 1–1.5 cm, margin entire, apex acuminate, reflexed. Petaloids erect to spreading, white, narrowly oblanceolate, margin entire or erose. Filaments cream, 5–7.5 cm; anthers linear, ca. 4.5 mm. Style cream, 14–20 cm, stout; stigmas 20–24, exserted, 2–2.3 mm, slender. Fruit red, globose to ellipsoid, 7–12.5 × 6–12 cm, with numerous triangular scales, umbilicus small; pulp white. Seeds obovate, ca. 2 × 1 mm. Fl. July–Dec.

Trees, rocks, maritime scrub; sea level to 300 m. S Fujian, S Guangdong, SW Guangxi, Hainan, Taiwan [perhaps native to Mexico

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and Central America; widely introduced and escaped in tropical Asia, E Australia, and South America].

This species was first introduced to China in 1645. It is usually cultivated as a hedge, or for its edible fruit. The flower is often eaten in a vegetable soup in S Guangdong.

