

8. PSIDIUM Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 470. 1753.

番石榴属 fan shi liu shu

Guajava Miller.

Shrubs or small trees. Bark gray, smooth. Branchlets pubescent. Leaves opposite, petiolate; leaf blade pinnately veined. Flowers axillary, large, usually 1 or 2 per axil. Bracts 2. Hypanthium campanulate or urceolate. Calyx lobes 4 or 5, unequal. Petals 4 or 5, white. Stamens many, separate, in many whorls; anthers ellipsoid, basifixed, locules parallel, longitudinally dehiscent. Ovary inferior, adnate to hypanthium, 4- or 5-loculed or more; ovules numerous. Style linear; stigma expanded. Berry globose to pyriform, fleshy, many-seeded, apex with persistent calyx lobes; placenta well developed, fleshy. Seed coat hard; embryo curved; hypocotyl long; cotyledons short.

About 150 species: tropical America; two species commonly cultivated in China with one naturalized.

Psidium guineense Swartz (*P. laurifolium* O. Berg) has also been recorded as occasionally being cultivated in China.

- 1a. Branchlets terete; leaf blade elliptic to obovate, abaxially glabrous, secondary veins obscure 1. *P. cattleianum*
1b. Branchlets angled; leaf blade oblong to elliptic, abaxially pubescent, secondary veins obvious 2. *P. guajava*

1. *Psidium cattleianum* Sabine, Trans. Hort. Soc. London 4: 317. 1821 [*"cattleianum"*].

草莓番石榴 cao mei fan shi liu

Guajava cattleiana (Sabine) Kuntze; *Psidium littorale* Raddi; *P. variabile* O. Berg.

Shrubs or trees, to 7 m tall. Bark grayish brown, smooth. Branchlets terete. Leaf blade elliptic to obovate, 5–10 × 2–4 cm, thickly leathery, both surfaces glabrous, secondary veins obscure, base cuneate, apex acute. Flowers axillary, solitary. Hypanthium obconiform. Calyx lobes 4 or 5, long ovate. Petals white, obovate, ca. 1 cm. Stamens shorter than petals. Ovary adnate to hypanthium, 4-loculed. Style slender; stigma peltate. Berry violet when mature, pyriform to globose, 2.5–4 cm; flesh white, yellow, or reddish. Fl. summer.

Cultivated in Guangdong, Hainan, Taiwan, and Yunnan [native to South America (Brazil)].

Schroeder (J. Arnold Arbor. 27: 314–315. 1946) discussed the likely publication dates of the names *Psidium cattleianum* and *P. littorale*, both of which were published in 1821. Schroeder gave convincing reasons for *P. cattleianum* having been published prior to *P. littorale*.

2. *Psidium guajava* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 470. 1753.

番石榴 fan shi liu

Guajava pyrifera (Linnaeus) Kuntze; *Myrtus guajava* (Linnaeus) Kuntze; *Psidium pomiferum* Linnaeus; *P. pyriferum* Linnaeus.

Trees, to 13 m tall. Bark gray, smooth, peeling in strips. Branchlets angular, pubescent. Petiole ca. 5 mm; leaf blade oblong to elliptic, 6–12 × 3.5–6 cm, leathery, abaxially pubescent, adaxially slightly rough, secondary veins 12–15 on each side of midvein and usually impressed, reticulate veins obvious, base rounded, apex acute to obtuse. Flowers solitary or 2 or 3 in cymes. Hypanthium campanulate, ca. 5 mm, pubescent. Calyx cap nearly rounded, 7–8 mm, irregularly opening. Petals white, 1–1.4 cm. Stamens 6–9 mm. Ovary adnate to hypanthium. Style as long as stamens. Berry globose, ovoid, or pyriform, 3–8 cm, with persistent calyx lobes at apex; flesh white or yellow; placenta reddish, well developed, fleshy. Seeds many. Fl. summer.

Cultivated and sometimes naturalized in Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Sichuan, Taiwan, and Yunnan [native to tropical America].

Psidium guajava has become naturalized in disturbed habitats in many tropical parts of the world.

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