

8. ARCTOUS (A. Gray) Niedenzu, Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 11: 180. 1889.

北极果属 bei ji guo shu

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Arctostaphylos Adanson sect. *Arctous* A. Gray, Syn. Fl. N. Amer. 2(1): 27. 1878.

Shrubs dwarf, deciduous. Twigs smooth, bark exfoliating in papery sheets; leaf or leaf bases marcescent. Leaf blade broad, margin serrate or crenate, flat. Flowers pendulous, 5-merous, in short terminal racemose clusters, with scales at base. Corolla urceolate, shortly lobed, abaxially glabrous, adaxially pubescent. Stamens included; filaments pubescent, much dilated below 1/3 length; anthers with 2 reflexed awns near apex, opening by 2 terminal pores. Ovary superior, glabrous, with one ovule per locule. Fruit a drupe; stones separate.

Four species: E and N Asia, Europe, North America, extending to the Arctic; three species (one endemic) in China.

- 1a. Leaves 0.2–0.6(–1.7) × 0.2–0.7 cm; plants 2.5–3.5 cm tall 2. *A. microphyllus*
- 1b. Leaves 2–5 × 0.7–2 cm; plants 3–20(–40) cm tall.
 - 2a. Leaves thickly papery; berry black-purple 1. *A. alpinus*
 - 2b. Leaves papery; berry brick-red or scarlet 3. *A. ruber*

1. *Arctous alpinus* (Linnaeus) Niedenzu, Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 11: 180. 1889.

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Arbutus alpina Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 395. 1753; *Arctostaphylos alpina* (Linnaeus) Sprengel; *Mairania alpina* (Linnaeus) Desvaux; ?*Arctous alpinus* var. *japonicus* (Nakai) Ohwi; ?*A. japonicus* Nakai.

Shrubs dwarf, tufted or prostrate, 3–20(–40) cm tall. Twigs terete, glabrous. Leaf blade obovate to spatulate-obovate, rarely oblanceolate, 2–5 (including petiole) × 0.7–2 cm, thickly papery, glabrous, fine veins abaxially reticulate, subglaucescent, adaxially distinctly impressed, base attenuate-cuneate, decurrent into winged petiole, margin crenate-serrate, ciliate in basal 1/2 at least along petiole, apex acute or rounded. Racemes 3–7-flowered. Pedicel ca. 5 mm, glabrous. Calyx lobes broadly ovate, apex acute. Corolla white, 4–6 mm; lobes greenish. Stamens 1–2 mm; filaments pubescent. Drupe black-purple, globose, 6–9 mm in diam. Fl. May–Jul, fr. Jul–Aug. 2*n* = 26, 28.

Alpine thickets, among rocks, sandy areas; 1900–3000 m. Gansu, Nei Mongol, Qinghai, Shaanxi, N Sichuan, Xinjiang [Japan, Mongolia, Russia; Europe, North America].

The fruit is edible.

2. *Arctous microphyllus* C. Y. Wu, Yunnan Redai Yaredai Zhiwu Quxi Yanjiu Baogao [Rep. Stud. Pl. Trop. Subtrop. Yunnan] 1: 5. 1965.

小叶当年桔 xiao ye dang nian ku

Shrubs dwarf, tussock-forming or prostrate, 2.5–3.5 cm tall. Twigs terete, glabrous. Leaf blade pale abaxially, dark green adaxially, oblanceolate, obovate, or elliptic, 2–6(–17) × 2–7 mm, thickly papery, glabrous, veins impressed adaxially, base attenuate, decurrent into winged petiole, margin crenate-serrate, densely ciliate or white setose along petiole, apex obtuse-acute. Racemes 2- or 3-flowered; scales brown, elliptic, longer than pedicel, margin ciliate, apex acute. Pedicel ca. 5 mm. Calyx lobes triangular, 1–1.5 mm, apex acuminate. Corolla and stamens unknown. Immature drupe white-green, subglobose, 4–5 mm in diam. Fl. May–Jun, fr. Jul.

• Low valley forests; ca. 3500 m. NW Yunnan (Zhongdian).

One of us (Stevens) questions whether this is a good species.

3. *Arctous ruber* (Rehder & E. H. Wilson) Nakai, Trees Shrubs Japan 1: 156. 1922.

红北极果 hong bei ji guo

Arctous alpinus (Linnaeus) Niedenzu var. *ruber* Rehder & E. H. Wilson in Sargent, Pl. Wilson 1: 556. 1913; *Arctostaphylos rubra* (Rehder & E. H. Wilson) Fernald.

Shrubs dwarf, 3–15(–20) cm tall. Twigs terete, glabrous. Leaf blade pale abaxially, dark green adaxially, obovate or oblanceolate, 2–4 (including petiole) × 1–1.4 cm, papery, glabrous, veins impressed adaxially, base attenuate-cuneate, decurrent into winged petiole, margin crenate, sparsely ciliate along petiole, apex obtuse-acute. Racemes 2–5-flowered; scales

broadly ovate, 5–7 mm, margin densely ciliate. Pedicel ca. 6 mm. Calyx lobes ovate, ca. 1 mm. Corolla white to cream, 3–4 mm; lobes spreading, ovate or orbicular. Stamens 1.5–2 mm; filaments puberulous. Drupe brick-red or scarlet, globose, 6–10 mm in diam. Fl. Jun, fr. Aug–Sep. $2n = 26$.

Among mosses and rocks on mountain summits, streamsides, localities rich in calcareous deposits; 2900–3300(–4000) m. Gansu, Jilin, Nei Mongol, Ningxia, N Sichuan [Japan, Korea; NW North America (Alaska)].

