

**100. DAUCUS** Linnaeus, *Sp. Pl.* 1: 242. 1753.

胡萝卜属 hu luo bo shu

She Menglan (余孟兰 Sheh Meng-lan); Mark F. Watson

Herbs biennial. Stem solitary erect, branching, retrorsely hispid. Basal leaves petiolate; blade pinnately decomposed, ultimate segments small and narrow. Leaves reduced upwards becoming sessile, wholly sheathing, divisions narrow and elongate. Umbels terminal and axillary, loosely compound; bracts numerous, pinnate, rarely entire, usually reflexed; rays numerous, spreading or incurved after anthesis, tightly compact in fruit; bracteoles numerous, toothed or entire; umbellules many-flowered, central flowers usually sterile with enlarged purple petals. Pedicels unequal. Calyx teeth obsolete to conspicuous. Petals white or yellow, obovate, with an inflexed apex, outer petals in outer flowers of an umbellule enlarged and radiant. Stylopodium conic; styles short. Fruit ellipsoid, dorsally compressed; primary ribs filiform, bristly; secondary ribs winged, wings with glochidiate prickles; vittae 1 in furrows under the secondary ribs, 2 on commissure. Seed face shallowly concave to nearly plane. Carpophore entire or bifid at apex. (Generic description relates to Chinese taxa only.)

About 20 species: N Africa, SW Asia, Europe; cultivated and adventive worldwide in temperate regions; one species in China.

**1. *Daucus carota*** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 242. 1753.

野胡萝卜 ye hu luo bo

Plants to 120 cm. Leaves oblong, 2–3-pinnate/pinnatisect; ultimate segments linear to lanceolate, 2–15 × 0.5–4 mm, glabrous to hispid especially on the veins and margins, acute, mucronate. Peduncles 10–55 cm, retrorsely hispid; bracts foliaceous, pinnate, rarely entire, lobes linear, 3–30 mm, margin scarious; rays 2–7.5 cm, unequal; bracteoles 5–7, linear, entire or 2–3-lobed, more or less scarious and ciliate, equaling or exceeding flowers. Petals white, sometimes yellow or pinkish. Fruit 3–4 × ca. 2 mm. Fl. May–Jul.

Mountain slopes, ruderal areas, also widely cultivated; 2000–3000 m. Anhui, Guizhou, Hubei, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Zhejiang [N Africa, SW Asia, Europe; cultivated and adventive worldwide in temperate regions].

The fruit used for medicine (“hu luo bo”) and oil.

- 1a. Taproot thickened, elongate terete or clavate,  
fleshy, reddish, reddish-yellow, or yellow  
(a carrot) ..... 1b. var. *sativa*

- 1b. Taproot slender, branched, woody, not fleshy,  
usually brown ..... 1a. var. *carota*

**1a. *Daucus carota* var. *carota***

野胡萝卜(原变种) *ye hu luo bo* (*yuan bian zhong*)

Taproot slender, branched, woody, not fleshy, usually brown.

Mountain slopes, ruderal areas; 2000–3000 m. Anhui, Guizhou, Hubei, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Zhejiang [N Africa, SW Asia, Europe; adventive worldwide in temperate regions].

**1b. *Daucus carota* var. *sativa* Hoffmann, *Deutschl. Fl.* 91. 1791.**

胡萝卜 *hu luo bo*

*Daucus carota* subsp. *sativa* (Hoffmann) Archangeli.

Taproot thickened, elongate terete or clavate, fleshy, reddish, reddish-yellow, or yellow.

Widely cultivated in China [of cultivated origin; cultivated worldwide].

The root is widely used as a vegetable (carrot).