

14. ASCLEPIAS Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 214. 1753.

马利筋属 ma li jin shu

Herbs, base frequently woody. Leaves opposite or whorled, short petiolate. Cymes terminal and extra-axillary, erect, umbel-like, many flowered. Calyx glands 5–10. Corolla rotate, deeply parted; lobes reflexed, valvate or rarely overlapping to right. Corona lobes 5, inserted on gynostegium, erect, apex hooded, with an incurved, ligular-hornlike adaxial appendage. Stamens inserted at base of corolla tube; filaments connate into a tube; anther appendages incurved; pollinia 2 per pollinarium, pendulous. Stigma head conical. Follicles fusiform, apex acuminate. Seeds flat, with a long coma.

About 120 species: America, some naturalized in Old World; one species in China.

1. *Asclepias curassavica* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 215. 1753.

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Plants to 1 m tall. Stems pale gray, puberulent to glabrous. Leaves opposite; petiole to 1 cm; leaf blade lanceolate or oblong-lanceolate, 6–15 × 1–4 cm, glabrous or abaxially puberulent along veins, base decurrent into petiole, apex acu-

Cultivated and naturalized in Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Qinghai, Sichuan, Taiwan, Xizang, Yunnan, Zhejiang [native of tropical America, widely introduced elsewhere].

Root extracts are used as an emetic and laxative. Leaf juice is used to kill intestinal parasitic worms and to hasten sweating during fevers. Flower juice has been used to stop bleeding. Chinese villagers brush dogs with twigs to repel fleas.

minate or acute. Cymes up to as long as leaves, 10–20-flowered; peduncle 3.5–6 cm, pubescent. Pedicel 1.2–2.5 cm, pubescent. Sepals lanceolate, ca. 3 × 1 mm, pubescent. Corolla purple or red, 7–9 mm; lobes oblong, 5–8 × ca. 3 mm, reflexed. Corona lobes yellow or orange, 3.5–4 mm; gynostegium 2.5–3 mm. Follicles fusiform, 5–10 × 1–1.5 cm. Seeds ovate, 6–7 × ca. 3 mm; coma 2–4 cm. Fl. almost all year. $2n = 22$.

