

## 18. *CERBERA* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 208. 1753.

海芒果属 hai mang guo shu

Trees with latex. Branches stout. Leaves alternate, lateral veins 20–30 pairs, diverging almost at right angles to midvein. Cymes terminal, long pedunculate. Calyx deeply divided, without glands inside. Corolla white, funnelform, throat slightly dilated, ribbed, or with 5 pubescent scales; lobes broad, overlapping to left. Stamens inserted at corolla throat; anthers narrowly oblong, apiculate, free from pistil head, lobes rounded at base; disc absent. Ovaries 2, free, ovules 4 in each locule. Style filiform, dilated distally; pistil head shortly 2-cleft. Drupes 1 or 2, large, ellipsoid or globose, 1- or 2-loculed, with a thick, woody-fibrous endocarp. Seeds 1 or 2 per locule, wingless, not comose, without endosperm; cotyledons thin, radicle very short.

Three species: Africa, tropical Asia, Australia, Pacific Islands; one species in China.

### 1. *Cerbera manghas* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 208. 1753.

海芒果 hai mang guo

Trees to 8 m tall. Bark gray-brown; branches whorled, marked with leaf scars. Petiole 2.5–6 cm; leaf blade narrowly ovate, 6–37 × 2.3–7.8 cm, base cuneate, apex acuminate. Peduncle stout, 5–21 cm. Pedicel terete, 1–2 cm. Flowers 4–7 cm wide. Corolla white, pinkish in center; tube 2.5–4 cm, villous inside; lobes ovate, falcate, 1.5–2.5 cm. Drupes 5–8 × 4–6 cm, smooth. Seeds usually single. Fl. Mar–Oct, fr. Jul–Dec.  $2n = 40$ .

Seashore, tidal river banks. S Guangdong, S Guangxi, Hainan, S Taiwan [Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan (Ryukyu Islands), Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam; Australia, Pacific Islands].

The fruit, and especially the seed, are very poisonous and contain hydrocyanic acid and the cardiac glycosides thevetin and cerberin. The wood is used for fine charcoal, and the seeds are used in Hainan to stupefy fish. The bark, latex, and leaves are sometimes used as an emetic and a purgative.

