

28. NERIUM Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 209. 1753.

夹竹桃属 *jia zhu tao shu*

Trees or shrubs, evergreen, juice watery. Leaves in whorls of 3, midvein prominent abaxially, lateral veins numerous, parallel. Inflorescences corymbose, terminal. Corolla funnelform, cylindric near base, throat open, wide, lobes overlapping to right; corona segments 5, petal-like, large, fringed. Stamens inserted at apex of corolla tube; anthers sagittate, with a bristly, filiform apical appendage, pilose, connivent, adherent to pistil head; disc absent. Ovaries 2, distinct; ovules numerous in each locule. Follicles united until just before dehiscence. Seeds numerous, densely pilose, coma at truncate apex.

One species: Asia, Europe, North Africa.

1. Nerium oleander Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 209. 1753.

夹竹桃 *jia zhu tao*

Nerium indicum Miller; *N. odorum* Solander.

Stem to 6 m tall. Leaves very narrowly elliptic, 5–21 × 1–3.5 cm, leathery, base cuneate or decurrent on petiole, apex acuminate or acute. Flowers showy, fragrant. Sepals narrowly triangular to narrowly ovate, 3–10 mm. Corolla purplish red, pink, white, salmon, or yellow, tube 1.2–2.2 cm; lobes 1.3–3 cm, single or double. Follicles cylindric, 12–23 cm. Seeds oblong, coma 0.9–1.2 cm. Fl. spring-autumn. $2n = 22$.

Yunnan, widely cultivated and naturalized in tropical, subtropical, and temperate parts [Asia, Europe, North America].

All parts of the plant are extremely toxic. The seed-oil content is up to 58.5%.

