

**15. LYCOPERSICON** Miller, Gard. Dict. Abr. ed. 4. 1754.

蕃茄属 fan qie shu

Herbs annual or perennial, unarmed; pubescence of simple or glandular hairs. Leaves petiolate, mostly compound with interstitial leaflets. Inflorescences appearing axillary or lateral, racemose; peduncle sometimes forked. Flowers pedicellate, 5–9-merous. Calyx campanulate, slightly enlarged or not. Corolla yellow, rotate, deeply lobed. Stamens inserted in corolla tube; filaments short; anthers slender, coherent, attenuate and long apiculate at apex, dehiscing longitudinally. Ovary 2–5-loculed. Style filiform; stigma minute, capitate. Fruiting calyx hardly enlarged. Berry red, orange, yellow, or green, mostly globose, rarely grooved, sometimes pubescent. Seeds numerous, discoid, sometimes pubescent; embryo strongly curved.

Nine species: South and North America, one species widely cultivated in China.

**1. *Lycopersicon esculentum*** Miller, Gard. Dict. ed. 8, no. 2. 1768.

蕃茄 fan qie

*Lycopersicon lycopersicum* (Linnaeus) Karsten;  
*Solanum lycopersicum* Linnaeus.

Herbs annual, sprawling, 0.6–2 m tall, viscid pubescent, odorous. Petiole 2–5 cm; leaf blade mostly pinnately compound or divided, sometimes entire, 10–40 cm, base oblique, cuneate, apex obtuse; leaflets mostly 5–9, sessile or petiolulate, unequal, ovate or oblong, 5–7 cm, entire or irregularly dentate, sparingly glandular pilose. Peduncle 2–5 cm, little or not branched, often 3–7-flowered. Pedicel 1–1.5 cm. Calyx rotate-campanulate, lobes lanceolate. Corolla 2–2.5 cm in diam.; lobes narrowly oblong, 8–10 mm, often reflexed. Filaments ca. 1 mm; anthers 6–10 mm. Style ca. 1.2 cm. Berry red or orange-yellow, subglobose, fleshy, juicy, shiny. Seeds straw colored, 2–4 mm, pilose. Fl. May-Sep, fr. Sep-Nov.

Widely cultivated in China [native to Mexico and South America].

Fruits are used as a vegetable.

