

16. MANDRAGORA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 181. 1753.

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Mairella H. Léveillé.

Herbs perennial, scapose; pubescence of simple hairs. Roots stout, vertical. Stems short, sometimes branched; axis sometimes elongated into a scape. Leaves often subsessile and forming a basal rosette; leaf blade entire, sinuate, or dentate, often undulate, sometimes reduced. Flowers in leaf or bract axils; peduncle absent; bracts membranous. Flowers actinomorphic, 5-merous. Pedicel sometimes elongated. Calyx rotate-campanulate, deeply lobed. Corolla campanulate, lobed. Stamens inserted in distal part of corolla tube, included; filaments slender, pubescent, at least basally; anthers oblong, dehiscing longitudinally. Disc evident, lobed. Ovary 2-locular; ovules numerous. Stigma slightly expanded. Fruiting calyx somewhat enlarged. Fruit yellow or orange, globose or ovoid juicy berry, becoming unilocular. Seeds compressed, reticulate; embryo curved, peripheral.

About four species: SW Asia, Europe; one species in China.

1. *Mandragora caulescens* C. B. Clarke in J. D. Hooker, Fl. Brit. India 4: 242. 1883.

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Anisodus caulescens (C. B. Clarke) Diels; *A. mariae* Pascher; *Mairella yunnanensis* H. Léveillé; *Mandragora chinghaiensis* Kuang & A. M. Lu; *Mandragora tibetica* Grubov.

Herbs perennial, mostly scapose, 20–60 cm tall, pubescent with simple or glandular hairs. Rhizome sturdy, fleshy, elongated or not, 5–22 cm. Stems sometimes present, 10–40 cm, occasionally branched. Leaves mostly basal, sometimes on ascending stems; leaf blade obovate-oblong to oblanceolate, 3–20 cm × 1.5–5 cm, pubescent, densely ciliate, base narrow, decurrent, apex obtuse. Peduncle 1–17 cm; bracts sessile, decurrent, membranous, apex obtuse. Flowers solitary, axillary, sometimes nodding; pedicel stout, 6–20 cm. Calyx campanulate, divided to halfway; lobes ovate to deltate. Corolla dark purple or yellow, divided halfway; lobes broadly ovate to deltate. Filaments ca. 7 mm; anthers 1.5–5 mm. Style ca. 4 mm; stigma slightly 2-lobed. Fruiting calyx becoming enlarged, campanulate, sometimes exceeding berry. Berry globose, 2–2.5 cm in diam. Seeds yellow, compressed-reniform, ca. 2 mm. Fl. May-Jul, fr. Jul-Sep.

Grassy slopes; 2200–4200 m. SE Qinghai, W Sichuan, E Xizang, NW Yunnan [Bhutan, India (Sikkim), Nepal].

The roots contain hyoscyne and anisodamine, which are used medicinally.

There is considerable variability in flower color, stature, shapes, and dimension of parts, including anther length. Grierson & Long (Notes. Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh 36:139–144. 1978) recognized four subspecies of *Mandragora caulescens* that overlap geographically, and their analysis did not cover *M. tibetica* and *M. chinghaiensis* that were described from western China. Further study may lead to separation of independent taxa from the single species recognized here. Authentic material of *M. tibetica* was not seen.

