

2. ABELIA R. Brown in Abel, Narr. J. China, App. B, 376. 1818.

糯米条属 *nuo mi tiao shu*

Shrubs, deciduous or semi-evergreen. Winter buds exposed, ovoid-orbicular, small, with several pairs of scales. Leaves opposite, rarely 3- or 4-whorled, shortly petiolate with an interpetiolar line, estipulate. Leaf margin entire to dentate or crenate-serrate. Flowers axillary, paniculate, single or paired (flowers opening consecutively); paired flowers with 6 bracts (*Abelia chinensis*), single flowers with 4 bracts (*A. uniflora* and *A. forrestii*) at base of ovaries; bracts small and not accrescent. Sepals 2–5, spreading, narrowly oblong, elliptic, persistent. Corolla 5-lobed, funnellform or bilabiate, white, yellow, pink, or red. Corolla tube gibbous ventrally at base containing a nectary of dense glandular hairs (nectaria trichomalialia). Stamens didynamous, adnate to corolla tube, included or exserted; anthers introrse. Ovary narrowly oblong, 3-locular, 2 locules with 2 series of sterile ovules, 1 locule with a single fertile ovule; style filiform; stigmas capitate, white and papillose. Fruit an oblong, leathery achene, crowned with persistent sepals. Seed subterete, testa membranous; endosperm fleshy.

Five species (including one cultivated hybrid): China, Japan; five species (three endemic, one cultivated hybrid) in China.

- 1a. Flowers paired, opening consecutively; paired ovaries with 6 bracts at base; sepals 5; corolla funnellform, 10–12 mm; stamens and style conspicuously exserted from corolla tube 1. *A. chinensis*
- 1b. Flowers solitary; ovary with 4 bracts at base; sepals 2–5; corolla bilabiate (funnellform to slightly bilabiate in *A. ×grandiflora*), 20–50 mm; stamens and style not conspicuously exserted from corolla tube.
 - 2a. Corolla ca. 20 mm; plants cultivated 5. *A. ×grandiflora*
 - 2b. Corolla 25–50 mm; plants wild.
 - 3a. Sepals usually 2; corolla lower lip with reticulate orange markings 3–4. *A. uniflora* species complex
 - 3b. Sepals usually 5; corolla lower lip without any markings 2. *A. forrestii*

1. *Abelia chinensis* R. Brown in Abel, Narr. J. China, App. B, 376. 1818.

糯米条 *nuo mi tiao*

Abelia aschersoniana (Graebner) Rehder; *A. cavaleriei* H. Léveillé; *A. chinensis* var. *ionandra* (Hayata) Masamune; *A. hanceana* M. Martens ex Hance; *A. ionandra* Hayata; *A. liponensis* M. T. An & G. Q. Gou; *A. rupestris* Lindley; *Linnaea aschersoniana* Graebner; *L. chinensis* (R. Brown) A. Braun & Vatke; *L. rupestris* (Lindley) A. Braun & Vatke.

Shrubs, deciduous to semi-evergreen, to 2 m tall, highly branched. Young branches slender and pubescent. Leaves opposite, sometimes in whorls of 3; leaf blade ovate, 2–5 × 1–3.5 cm, abaxially sparsely pubescent, densely white villous at base of midvein and lateral veins, base rounded or cordate, margin remotely crenate-serrate, apex acute to long acuminate. Inflorescence a large terminal panicle of paired flowers (flowers opening consecutively). Flowers fragrant, with 6 oblong or lanceolate bracts at base of paired ovaries. Calyx of 5 sepals, elliptic, 5–6 mm, turning red at fruiting stage. Corolla 5-lobed, white to pink, funnellform, 10–12 mm, ca. 2 × as long as sepals, outside pubescent and gibbous at base of tube. Stamens and style long exserted; filaments slender, equal in length, inserted at base of corolla tube. Ovary cylindric, slightly compressed, pubescent, longitudinally striate; stigmas capitate. Achene crowned with persistent and slightly enlarged sepals. Fl. Aug–Sep, fr. Oct–Nov. *2n* = 32.

Mountains; 200–1500 m. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Japan].

This species is commonly cultivated in China.

2. *Abelia forrestii* (Diels) W. W. Smith, Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh 9: 76. 1916.

细瘦糯米条 *xi shou nuo mi tiao*

Linnaea forrestii Diels, Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh 5: 178. 1912; *Abelia gracilentata* W. W. Smith; *A. gracilentata* var. *microphylla* W. W. Smith; *A. microphylla* (W. W. Smith) Golubkova.

Shrubs, deciduous, to 2 m tall. Branches densely pubescent. Leaf blade narrowly elliptic to lanceolate, 3–7 × 1–2 cm, base obtuse, margin entire, apex acute. Flowers single and axillary, sometimes slightly paniculate; peduncles 3–4 mm; ovary with 4 linear bracts at base. Calyx reddish in fruit; sepals 5, oblanceolate, 6–8 × 1–2 mm, 3-veined, sparsely pubescent. Corolla white to rose, bilabiate, outside pubescent or glandular hairy, inside sparsely villous; tube to 45 mm, expanded in upper part, gibbous at base; lobes 5, orbicular, 4–5 mm; lip without any markings. Stamens 4; filaments ca. as long as corolla; anthers elliptic, to 2 mm. Style sparsely pubescent; stigmas capitate, slightly exserted. Achene to 7 mm, crowned with 5 persistent and enlarged sepals. Fl. May–Sep, fr. Oct.

• Sunny places on mountain slopes, scrub; 1900–3300 m. SW Sichuan, NW Yunnan.

This is a rare species.

3–4. *Abelia uniflora* species complex

Shrubs deciduous, to 4 m tall. Branches pubescent, occasionally glabrous. Leaves highly variable in shape and size, ovate, orbicular, or lanceolate, 1–8 × 0.5–3.5 cm, abaxially densely white pubescent at base of midvein and lateral veins, adaxially sparsely pubescent, base cuneate, margin subentire or remotely serrate, apex obtuse to acuminate. Flowers single and axillary, sometimes slightly paniculate. Calyx of 2 oblong to elliptic sepals, 10–15 mm, ca. 1/3 as long as corolla tube. Corolla white to purplish pink, bilabiate, 25–50 mm, gibbous at base of tube, 5-lobed, outside pubescent, inside villous on lip; upper lip 2-lobed; lower lip 3-lobed, bearded and with reticu-

late orange markings. Stamens 4, didynamous; filaments partially adnate to corolla tube. Ovary pubescent, with 4 ovate to lanceolate bracts at base; style ca. as long as corolla tube; stigmas capitate. Achene 6–15 mm, pubescent, crowned with 2 persistent and slightly enlarged sepals. Fl. Apr–Jun, fr. Aug–Oct.

• Thickets, forests; 200–2000 m. Fujian, Gansu, Guangxi, Guizhou, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Yunnan.

This species shows variation in leaf and sepal shape, ovary length, and corolla size. In the past, many species have been recognized as separate. A specimen collected in Guizhou (*Simmons et al.* 288) has been identified to show introgression from *Abelia chinensis*. This phenomenon, as well as possible polyploidy, renders the infraspecific classification of *A. uniflora* very unreliable.

- 1a. Leaves shortly acuminate; sepals with rounded apex 3. *A. uniflora*
1b. Leaves long acuminate with asymmetrical apex; sepals with acute apex 4. *A. macrotera*

3. *Abelia uniflora* R. Brown in Wallich, Pl. Asiat. Rar. 1. 15. 1830.

薷梗花 tong geng hua

Abelia engleriana (Graebner) Rehder; *A. longituba* Rehder; *A. mairei* H. Léveillé; *A. myrtilloides* Rehder; *A. parvifolia* Hemsley; *A. schischkinii* Golubkova; *A. schumannii* (Graebner) Rehder; *A. tereticalyx* (Graebner & Buchwald) Rehder; *A. verticillata* H. Léveillé; *Linnaea engleriana* Graebner; *L. koehneana* Graebner; *L. parvifolia* (Hemsley) Graebner; *L. schumannii* Graebner; *L. tereticalyx* Graebner & Buchwald; *Strobilanthes hypericifolia* H. Léveillé.

For description see under species complex. Distinguishing characters for this species are as follows: Leaves shortly acuminate. Sepals with rounded apex. Fl. Apr–Jun, fr. Aug–Oct.

• Thickets, forests; 200–2000 m. Fujian, Gansu, Guangxi, Guizhou, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Yunnan.

The holotype of *Abelia uniflora* is held in Cambridge University Herbarium (CGE) and the name was validly published by R. Brown within the description of *Zabelia triflora*.

4. *Abelia macrotera* (Graebner & Buchwald) Rehder in Sargent, Pl. Wilson. 1: 126. 1911.

二翅糯米条 er chi nuo mi tiao

Linnaea macrotera Graebner & Buchwald, Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 29: 131. 1900; *Abelia deutzifolia* (H. Léveillé) H. Léveillé; *A. graebneriana* Rehder; *A. graebneriana* var. *deutzifolia* (H. Léveillé) Lauener; *Strobilanthes deutzifolia* H. Léveillé.

For description see under species complex. Distinguishing characters for this species are as follows: Leaves long acuminate with asymmetrical apex. Sepals with acute apex. Fl. Apr–Jun, fr. Aug–Oct.

• Thickets, forests; 200–2000 m. Guangxi, Guizhou, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Shaanxi, Sichuan, Yunnan.

5. *Abelia* × *grandiflora* (Rovelli ex André) Rehder, Cycl. Amer. Hort. 1: 1. 1900.

大花糯米条 da hua nuo mi tiao

Abelia rupestris Lindley f. *grandiflora* Rovelli ex André, Rev. Hort. 58: 488. 1886.

Shrubs, semi-evergreen, 1–1.5 m tall. Branches pubescent. Leaves sometimes whorled on vigorous shoots (3- or 4-whorled). Leaves adaxially glossy green, sometimes coppery tinged, ovate, to 4.5 cm, glabrous or with tuft of hairs on veins abaxially, base cuneate, margin remotely serrate with unequal teeth, apex acute. Flowers single and axillary, paniculate; peduncle 2–4 mm; flower with 4 bracts at base of ovary. Calyx with sepals varying from 2–5, reddish, often partly united, lanceolate, apex acute. Corolla white, sometimes tinged with pink, funnellform to slightly bilabiate, gibbous at base, ca. 20 mm, slightly fragrant, hirsute bearded with long hairs on lower lip. Stamens nearly as long as corolla tube; filaments partially adnate to corolla, generally inserted but sometimes slightly protruding, glabrous. Ovary 2–8 mm, slender, minutely pilose; style slightly exserted, 17–18 mm, glabrous; stigmas capitate. Achene 8–10 mm, slender, sparsely pilose or glabrous, with persistent sepals at apex. Fl. Jun–Oct, fr. Sep–Nov.

Cultivated in China [cultivated in Africa, the Americas, and Europe].

Abelia × *grandiflora* is a cultivated hybrid between *A. uniflora* and *A. chinensis*. It is commonly cultivated in the Americas, Africa, and Europe but less so in China.

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