

**32. CITRULLUS** Schrader ex Ecklon & Zeyher, Enum. Pl. Afric. Austral. 2: 279. 1836,  
nom. cons.

西瓜属 xi gua shu

Lu Anmin (路安民 Lu An-ming); Charles Jeffrey

*Anguria* Miller.

Herbs, climbing, annual or perennial. Stem and branches scabrous, robust. Tendrils 2- or 3-fid, rarely simple. Leaves orbicular or triangular-ovate, deeply 3–5-partite; segments lobulate or dissected. Plants monoecious; flowers solitary, rarely fasciculate. Male flowers: calyx tube broadly campanulate, 5-lobed; corolla rotate or broadly campanulate, deeply 5-partite; segments ovate-oblong; stamens 3, inserted on base of calyx tube; filaments free, short; anthers free or slightly coherent, one 1-celled, others 2-celled; anther cells linear, sigmoid-flexuous; connective dilated, not produced; rudimentary ovary glandlike. Female flowers: calyx and corolla as in male flowers; staminodes 3, setiform or ligulate; ovary ovoid, with 3 placentas; ovules numerous, horizontal; style short, columnar; stigmas 3, thick, reniform, nearly 3-lobed. Fruit globose or oblong, fleshy or dry, indehiscent, many seeded. Seeds oblong, compressed, smooth, marginate or emarginate.

Four species: tropical and S Africa, SW Asia, E Mediterranean region; one species (introduced) in China.

**1. *Citrullus lanatus*** (Thunberg) Matsumura & Nakai, Cat. Sem. Spor. Hort. Bot. Univ. Imp. Tokyo 30: no. 854. 1916.

Commonly cultivated in China [native to S Africa; cultivated in all warmer areas of the world].

西瓜 xi gua

The fruit are important “water fruit” in summer; the seeds contain edible oil; the fruit coat is used medicinally.

*Momordica lanata* Thunberg, Prodr. Pl. Cap. 13. 1794; *Citrullus colocynthis* Schrader var. *lanatus* (Thunberg) Matsumura & Nakai; *C. edulis* Spach; *C. vulgaris* Schrader ex Ecklon & Zeyher; *Colocynthis citrullus* (Linnaeus) Kuntze; *Cucumis citrullus* (Linnaeus) Seringe; *Cucurbita citrullus* Linnaeus.

Plants annual. Stem and branches robust, sulcate-angular, villous. Tendrils puberulent, 2-fid. Petiole 3–12 cm, densely pubescent; leaf blade white-green, triangulate-ovate, 8–20 × 5–15 cm, both surfaces hispid, 3-partite; segments lobulate, base cordate, sinus semicircular, apex acute or acuminate. Flowers solitary. Male flowers: pedicel 3–4 cm, villous; calyx tube densely villous; segments narrowly lanceolate, 2–3 mm; corolla pale yellow, 2.5–3 cm in diam.; segments ovate-oblong, 1–1.5 × 0.5–0.8 cm; stamens nearly free. Female flowers: calyx and corolla as in male flowers; ovary 5–8 mm, densely villous; stigmas 3, reniform. Fruit globose or oblong, smooth. Seeds numerous, color various, ovate, 1–1.5 × 0.5–0.8 cm. Fl. and fr. Apr–Oct.

