

### 35. CUCURBITA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 1010. 1753.

南瓜属 nan gua shu

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

*Pepo* Miller.

Herbs, climbing or prostrate, annual. Stem and branches robust. Tendrils 2- to many fid. Leaf blade lobed, base cordate. Plants monoecious; flowers solitary, yellow. Male flowers: calyx tube campanulate, rarely elongate; segments 5, lanceolate or leaflike at apex; corolla campanulate, 5-lobed; stamens 3; filaments free; anthers connected into a head, one 1-celled, two 2-celled; anther cells linear, reflexed; connective not produced; pistillode absent. Female peduncle short; calyx and corolla as in male flowers; staminodes 3, broadly triangular; ovary oblong or globose, with 3–5-placentas; ovules numerous, horizontal; style short; stigmas 3–5-lobed or bifurcate. Fruit large, fleshy, indehiscent. Seeds numerous, compressed, smooth.

About 15 species: warm regions of the Americas, also cultivated in tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions; three species (all introduced) in China.

- 1a. Calyx segments linear, apex leaflike; fruiting pedicel conspicuously enlarged at apex; seed margin thickened ..... 3. *C. moschata*
- 1b. Calyx segments linear or linear-lanceolate, apex not leaflike; fruiting pedicel not strongly enlarged at apex.
  - 2a. Leaf blade triangular or ovate-triangular, irregularly 5–7-lobed; calyx segments linear-lanceolate; fruiting pedicel angular-sulcate, slightly thickened at apex; seed marginate and obtuse ..... 1. *C. pepo*
  - 2b. Leaf blade reniform or orbicular, almost entire or dentate; calyx segments lanceolate; fruiting pedicel not angular-sulcate, not thickened at apex; seed margin obtuse or ± marginate ..... 2. *C. maxima*

#### 1. *Cucurbita pepo* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 1010. 1753.

西葫芦 xi hu lu

Plants climbing. Stem setose and scabrous-hairy. Petiole setose, 6–9 cm; leaf blade triangular or ovate-triangular, both surfaces scabrous-hairy, base cordate, margin irregularly dentate, apex acute. Tendrils many fid. Plants monoecious; flowers solitary; pedicel angular, 3–6 cm, yellow-brown setose; calyx tube 5-angled; segments linear-lanceolate; corolla campanulate, ca. 5 × 3 cm; segments erect, apex acute; stamens 3; filaments ca. 15 mm; anthers connivent, ca. 10 mm; ovary ovoid, 1-locular. Fruiting pedicel robust, conspicuously angular-sulcate, apex slightly thickened; fruit variable in shape and size. Seeds numerous, white, ovate, ca. 20 mm, marginate and obtuse. Fl. and fr. May–Nov.

Commonly cultivated throughout China [native to North America; cultivated in tropical and temperate regions].

The fruit is used as a vegetable.

#### 2. *Cucurbita maxima* Duchesne, Essai Hist. Nat. Courges, 7, 12. 1786.

笋瓜 sun gua

*Cucurbita pepo* Linnaeus var. *maxima* (Duchesne) Delile.

Plants climbing. Stem robust, white setose. Petiole 15–20 cm, densely setose; leaf blade reniform or orbicular-reniform, 15–25 cm, both surfaces setose, base cordate, margin almost entire or dentate, apex obtuse. Tendrils usually many fid, slightly setose. Male pedicel 10–20 cm, puberulent; calyx tube campanulate; segments linear-lanceolate, 18–20 mm, densely white setose; corolla tubular; segments reflexed, ovate-orbicular, 2–3 cm, margin rugose, apex obtuse; stamens 3; filaments connivent, 5–7 mm, almost glabrous or puberulent at base; anthers connivent. Ovary ovoid; style short; stigmas 2-lobed. Fruiting pedicel short, cylindrical, not angular-sulcate, apex not

enlarged; fruit variable in shape, size, and color. Seeds compressed, margin obtuse or marginate. Fl. and fr. Apr–Nov.

Commonly cultivated in China [native to South America; cultivated in tropical and temperate regions].

The fruit is used as a vegetable; the seeds contain oil.

#### 3. *Cucurbita moschata* Duchesne, Essai Hist. Nat. Courges, 7, 15–16. 1786.

南瓜 nan gua

*Cucurbita pepo* Linnaeus var. *moschata* (Duchesne) Duchesne.

Plants prostrate. Stem to 2–5 m, densely white setose. Petiole robust, 8–19 cm, setose; leaf blade broadly ovate or ovate-orbicular, 12–25 × 20–30 cm, 5-angled or 5-lobed; lobes triangular, adaxially yellow-white setose and velvety. Male calyx tube campanulate, 5–6 mm; segments linear, 1–1.5 cm, pubescent, enlarged or leaflike at apex; corolla campanulate, ca. 8 × 6 cm; segments with revolute margin, rugose, apex acute; stamens 3; filaments 5–8 mm, glandular; anthers connivent, ca. 15 mm. Ovary 1-locular; style short; stigma enlarged, 2-lobed. Fruiting pedicel robust, 5–7 cm, angular-sulcate, strongly enlarged at apex; fruit variable in shape, size, and color. Seeds numerous, gray-white, ovate or oblong, 10–15 × 7–10 mm, margin thickened. Fl. and fr. Apr–Nov.

Commonly cultivated throughout China [native to Central America; cultivated worldwide].

The fruit is used as a vegetable; the seeds are edible.

