

22. CYCLANTHERA Schrader, Index Sem. Hort. Acad. Goett. 1831: 2. 1831.

小雀瓜属 xiao que gua shu

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

Herbs, climbing, annual or perennial. Tendrils simple or 2- to many fid. Leaves undivided, divided, or pedately 5–7-foliate. Plants monoecious. Male flowers in raceme or panicle; calyx tube cup-shaped or cupular; segments 5, subulate, sometimes almost obsolete; corolla rotate, 5-partite; segments broadly ovate-oblong, usually acute; stamen 1; filament very short; anther horizontal, 1-celled, circular. Female flowers solitary, binary, or 3-fasciculate; calyx and corolla as in male flowers; ovary ovoid, 1-locular; style very short; stigma large, orbicular. Fruit ovoid or reniform, ± fleshy, setose or setiform, rarely glabrous. Seeds few to numerous, compressed, angled, 2-lobed at apex and base.

About 20 species: tropical America; one species (introduced) in China.

1. Cyclanthera pedata (Linnaeus) Schrader, Index Sem. Hort. Acad. Goett. 1831: 2. 1831.

小雀瓜 xiao que gua

Momordica pedata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 1009. 1753.

Plants annual. Stem robust, multibranched, glabrous. Petiole 5–15 cm; leaf blade 5-pedatisect, leaflets elliptic or elliptic-lanceolate, median leaflet 7–16 × 2–6 cm, base cuneate, margin dentate, apex acuminate; lateral leaflets 5–14 × 2–4 cm. Tendrils 2-fid. Male flowers in a panicle; peduncle 10–23 cm, 20–50-flowered; pedicels filiform, 4–10 mm; calyx tube cupular,

ca. 2 × 3–4 mm; segments linear, ca. 2 mm; corolla yellow; segments ovate-triangular, 1.5–2 × 2–2.5 mm, puberulent; filaments connate; anthers circular, 1.5–2 mm. Female flowers: calyx and corolla as in male flowers; ovary 2–3 mm; style 0.5–0.7 mm. Fruit narrowly oblong to narrowly elliptic, 5–7 × 2.5–3 cm, setose, apex acuminate, 8–10-seeded. Seeds black, suboblong, 10–12 × 7–8 mm, margin dentate. Fl. and fr. May–Oct.

Cultivated. Xizang, Yunnan [cultivated in tropics of New and Old Worlds, not known wild].

The fruit is used as a vegetable.

