

13. ECBALLIUM A. Richard in Bory, Dict. Class. Hist. Nat. 6: 19. 1824, nom. cons.

喷瓜属 pen gua shu

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

Elaterium Miller.

Herbs, creeping. Roots perennial. Stem and branches setose. Tendrils absent. Leaf blade cordate. Plants monoecious or dioecious. Male inflorescence a raceme; calyx tube shortly campanulate; segments 5, linear-lanceolate; corolla yellow, broadly campanulate or almost rotate; segments ovate-oblong, apex acute; stamens 3, linear; filaments short, free; anthers: one 1-celled, two 2-celled; anther cells reflexed; connective broad, not produced; pistillode absent. Female flowers solitary; calyx and corolla as in male flowers; staminodes 3, ligulate; ovary oblong, hispid; ovules numerous, horizontal; style short; stigmas 3, 2-lobed. Fruit oblong, hispid, scabrous, watery inside, when mature separating from peduncle and contracting at base, dispersing seeds by elastic contraction (squirting seeds). Seeds numerous, brown or nearly black, oblong, compressed, narrowly marginate.

One species: Mediterranean region to SW Asia (east to Iran); introduced elsewhere, including China.

1. *Ecballium elaterium* (Linnaeus) A. Richard in Bory, Dict. Class. Hist. Nat. 6: 19. 1824.

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Momordica elaterium Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 1010. 1753.

Roots elongate, robust. Stem ca. 1.5 m, scabrous. Petiole somewhat robust, 5–15 cm, densely setose; leaf blade ovate-oblong or hastate, 8–20 × 6–15 cm, scabrous, abaxially white pubescent, adaxially white setose, margin sinuous or slightly divi-

ded, apex slightly obtuse; sinus semicircular, sometimes truncate. Male flowers in a raceme; peduncle densely yellow-brown pubescent and setose; pedicels filiform, 1–3 cm; calyx segments lanceolate, 5–6 × 1.2–2 mm, densely pubescent and hispid; corolla yellow, ca. 3 cm in diam.; segments ovate-oblong; filaments ca. 3 mm, base villous. Fruit oblong or ovoid-oblong, 4–5 × 1.5–2.5 cm, scabrous, yellow-brown hispid, both ends obtuse. Seeds ca. 4 mm.

Dry mountain slopes, grasslands. Xinjiang [native to SW Asia and Mediterranean region].

