
三棱瓜属  san leng gua shu

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

Herbs, climbing. Stem and branches slender. Tendrils 2-fid. Petiole slender; leaf blade ovate-cordate, membranous, pubescent at first, ultimately glabrescent, scabrous, margin irregularly dentate. Plants dioecious. Male flowers in raceme or rarely solitary; calyx tube elongate, narrowly funnelform; segments 5, linear; corolla yellow, subrotate, 5-partite; segments obovate, entire; stamens 3, included, inserted on calyx tube; filaments free, short; anthers conicate, one 1-celled, others 2-celled; anther cells straight; connective narrow; pistillode subulate. Female flowers solitary; calyx and corolla as in male flowers; staminodes absent; ovary narrowly ovoid, 3-locular, 1 or 2 ovules in each locule; ovules ± horizontal; style filiform, elongate; stigmas 3, oblong, apex 2-lobed. Fruit broadly fusiform, distinctly 3-angled, ribbed, dry, deeply 3-valved. Seeds subquadrate, compressed, slightly corrugate.

One species: Bhutan, SW China, N India, Nepal.


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Petiole 4–6 cm, pubescent at first, ultimately glabrous; leaf blade ovate-cordate, 8–12 × 6–10 cm, membranous, abaxially hispidulous on veins, adaxially sparsely puberulent at first, ultimately scabrous, margin sinuous-dentate, apex acute or shortly acuminate; basal sinus 2–2.5 cm deep. Male flowers usually 10–16 in a raceme or rarely solitary; peduncle slender, 12–15 cm; pedicel filiform, 5–8 mm; calyx tube 1.5–2 cm, apex 3–4 mm in diam.; segments 3–4 mm; corolla segments narrowly ovate, 10–15 × 3–5 mm, 3-veined, apex acuminate; filaments ca. 5 mm; pistillode 3–4 mm. Fruiting pedicel stout, 2–10 cm; fruit ovoid-3-angled, 6–7 cm, 3–4 cm in diam., glabrous or sparsely puberulent, apex 3-valved when mature. Seeds 13–14 × ca. 9 mm, ca. 2 mm thick. Fl. May–Aug.

Broad-leaved forests, grasslands; ca. 1700 m. Xizang [Bhutan, N India, Nepal].