

24. MELOTHRIA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 35. 1753.

美洲马蔺儿属 *mei zhou ma jiao er shu*

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Landersia Macfadyen.

Herbs, climbing or trailing, annual. Leaves petiolate, usually palmately lobed. Tendrils simple. Plants monoecious. Male flowers shortly racemose or subcorymbose; calyx campanulate to cylindrical, 5-lobed; corolla yellow, rotate; segments 5; stamens 3, inserted above middle of tube; anthers two 2-celled, one 1-celled; anther cells straight or slightly curved; connective not produced; rudimentary ovary subglobose. Female flowers solitary, usually coaxillary with male flowers; calyx and corolla as in male flowers; ovary globose to fusiform, 3-locular; ovules numerous, horizontal; style surrounded at base by an annular disk; stigmas 3. Fruit globose to oblong. Seeds numerous, compressed, smooth.

About 12 species: Neotropics; one species (introduced) in China.

1. *Melothria pendula* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 35. 1753.

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Stems slender, setulose to glabrous. Petiole slender, retrorsely hispid, 0.9–5 cm; leaf blade adaxially dark green, abaxially paler, ovate to pentagonal, membranous to herbaceous, abaxially shortly hispid or scabrid, adaxially hispid or scabrid-punctate, cordate, unlobed or shallowly to deeply 3–5-lobed, apex obtuse to acuminate, apiculate. Male flowers 3–12 in axillary fascicles, often with an accompanying solitary flower; peduncle slender, 0.5–3.5 cm; pedicels slender, 1.5–9 mm; ca-

lyx campanulate, 1.5–3.5 mm, shortly pubescent to glabrous; corolla yellow; segments spreading, obovate-oblong, 1.5–2.5 mm, emarginate, apiculate; stamens 3, two 2-celled, one 1-celled; filaments short, ca. 0.5 mm; anthers ellipsoid. Female flowers solitary, often coaxillary with male flowers; pedicel slender, 0.7–3.5 cm; calyx and corolla as in male flowers. Fruit black when ripe, subglobose to ellipsoid, 0.8–1.9 × 0.8–1.2 cm. Seeds pallid, ovate, compressed, minutely fimbriate, 4–5 × 2–2.8 mm, 0.6–0.9 mm thick. Fl. and fr. Jan–Dec.

Ruderal weeds; low elevations. Taiwan [native to the Americas (S United States to Argentina); introduced in SE Asia].

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