
**娄林果属** lou lin guo shu

Li Bingtao (李秉滔 Li Ping-tao); Michael G. Gilbert

Trees or shrubs, indument of simple or rarely stellate hairs. Inflorescences few flowered or rarely 1-flowered. Sepals 3, small, valvate, free or rarely connate at base into a cup. Petals 6, in 2 whorls, with each whorl valvate, connate at base; outer petals outside with a spur or wing; inner petals minute. Stamens many; connectives disklike, apex dilated. Carpels many; ovule 1 per carpel, basal. Fruit syncarpous, globose to ovoid. Seeds many per syncarp, usually dark brown to almost black, flat, embedded in edible pulp.

About 42 species: Central America, tropical South America; one species (introduced) in China.


1. **Rollinia mucosa** (Jacquin) Baillon, Adansonia 8: 268. 1868.

**米糕娄林果** mi gao lou lin guo


Trees to 10 m tall. Bark grayish brown, with rose-colored tissue below. Petiole 5–10 mm; leaf blade oblong-elliptic, 15–25 × 8–11 cm, leathery, abaxially pubescent, adaxially smooth and glossy, midvein prominent, secondary veins 11–16 on each side of midvein, base slightly cuneate, apex acuminate. Inflorescences 1-flowered. Flowers 2–3.5 cm in diam. Pedicel ca. 2 cm, thick and widening at apex. Sepals broadly triangular, 3–4 mm. Outer petals with conspicuous winglike dorsal appendage; inner petals small and scalelike. Stamens many, ca. 1 mm. Carpels many; styles terminal, short, densely hairy. Syncarp dark green at first, ripening yellow to pale yellow, spherical to oblong, 10–20 × 7–20 cm, with soft protuberances ending in a brown to black fleshy point at apex of each carpel; pulp white or cream, fleshy, with a soft fibrous and mucilaginous texture, juicy and with a pleasant aroma. Seeds dark brown to almost black, ca. 10 × 5 mm. Fl. May–Jun, fr. Jul–Nov.

Cultivated; 100–200 m. Guangdong [native to tropical South America].

This species is grown for the fine fruit, biriba. The abundant fleshy pulp surrounding the seeds is eaten.