
鸡仔木属 ji zai mu shu

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Trees, unarmed; buds rounded. Raphides absent. Leaves opposite, decussate, usually with domatia; stipules caducous, interpetiolar, broadly triangular in outline, deeply bifid. Inflorescences terminal and in axils of uppermost leaves, capitate with 7–11 globose heads in a cymose arrangement, many flowered, pedunculate with peduncles occasionally articulate though usually ebracteate in upper half, bracteate; bracteoles filiform to filiform-clavate. Flowers sessile, bisexual, monomorphic. Calyx limb 5-lobed; lobes obtuse. Corolla yellow, salverform to slenderly funnelform, pubescent inside; lobes 5, thinly imbricate in bud. Stamens 5, inserted in upper part of corolla tube, partially exserted; filaments short; anthers basifixed. Ovary 2-celled, ovules 4–12 in each cell on axile placentas attached in upper third of septum; stigma obovoid, exserted. Fruiting heads globose. Fruit capsular, obconic, septicidally dehiscent into 2 valves from base to apex with valves separating along sides or from base to apex and away from persistent septum, sometimes later splitting loculicidally into 2 more valves, stiffly cartilaginous, with septum persistent or tardily deciduous, with calyx limb persistent on septum; seeds several, medium-sized, fusiform to spatulate, slightly to rather strongly flattened, winged at both ends.

One species: China, Japan, Myanmar, Thailand.

Ridsdale (loc. cit.) described the arrangement of the corolla lobes in bud as “valvate but subimbricate at the apex”; on the specimens studied these appear to be imbricate with the margins very thinly overlapping, a condition sometimes called “subimbricate” or “thinly imbricate” elsewhere in this treatment (e.g., Timonius). Ridsdale described the seeds as “trigonal to tricornute, slightly bilaterally compressed, not winged,” but the seeds on the specimens studied are flattened and shortly winged at the ends (e.g., Fang 8106, MO; Tsui 756, MO).


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Semi- to fully deciduous trees, 4–12 m tall; trunk bark gray; branches glabrous. Petiole (1–)3–6(–8) cm, glabrous or puberulent; leaf blade drying thinly leathery, ovate, ovate-oblong, or elliptic, (4–)9–15–25 × (3–)5–10(–18) cm, adaxially shiny and glabrous or infrequently sparsely hirtellous, abaxially glabrous to pilosulous, base cordate to obtuse, sometimes slightly inequilateral, apex acute to acuminate; secondary veins 6–12 pairs, sometimes with foveolate or to pilosulous domatia; stipules (5–)10–15 × 2–5 mm, puberulent to glabrous, lobes suborbicular. Inflorescence densely puberulent; peduncles 1–3 cm; branched portion 5–10 × 5–10 cm, branched to 1 order; flowering heads 4–8 mm in diam. across calyces, 14–18 mm in diam. across corollas; bracteoles ca. 1 mm. Calyx villosulous; ovary portion ellipsoid-obcuneate, 0.7–1 mm, surrounded at base by a ring of trichomes 0.5–1 mm; limb deeply lobed, lobes spatulate, ca. 0.5 mm, at apex rounded and thickened. Corolla outside densely woolly puberulent; tube (3–)4–5 mm; lobes spatulate to deltoid, 0.5–1 mm, acute to obtuse. Stigma fusiform, 0.3–0.4 mm, exserted for 4–6 mm. Fruiting head 11–15 mm in diam. Capsules obovoid-cuneate, 5–7 mm, sparsely hirtellous; seeds 2.5–3.5 × 0.5–1 mm, often bifid at apex. Fl. and fr. May–Dec.

Sunny watersides, forests; 300–1000(–1500) m. Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [Japan, Myanmar, Thailand].

The synonym Cornus esquirolii was first cited for this species by Lauener and Ferguson (Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh 32: 103. 1972), based on a type from Guizhou, China.