

**27. GLORIOSA** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 305. 1753.

嘉兰属 jia lan shu

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Herbs perennial, with a stout, tuberous rhizome. Stem sometimes branched, usually elongate and scandent. Leaves cauline, alternate, opposite, or whorled, subsessile, apex bearing a tendril. Flowers few, long pedicellate, sometimes in a corymb, large, showy. Tepals 6, free, spreading or reflexed, persistent. Stamens 6, inserted at base of tepals; filaments filiform; anthers versatile. Ovary 3-loculed; ovules many per locule. Style long, filiform, apically 3-lobed, adaxially stigmatic. Fruit a capsule. Seeds subglobose; testa bright red, spongy.

About five species: S and tropical Africa, tropical Asia; one species in China.

**1. *Gloriosa superba*** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 305. 1753.

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Rhizome usually forked, ca. 1 cm in diam., fleshy. Stem scandent, 2–3 m or more, rather slender. Leaves alternate or occasionally also opposite, sessile or shortly petiolate, lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, 7–13 cm, apex long caudate with a tendril. Flowers nodding; pedicel 10–15 cm. Tepals reflexed, bright red, proximally tinged with yellow, linear-oblongate, 4.5–5 cm × 7–9 mm, base slightly clawed, margin much crisped. Filaments 3–4 cm; anthers ca. 1 cm. Style 2.5–3.5 cm; stigma lobes 6–7 mm. Fl. Jul–Aug.  $2n = 22, 88, 90$ .

Forests, thickets; 900–1300 m. S Yunnan [Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; S and tropical Africa].

The rhizomes are rich in the alkaloid colchicine.

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