

5. NARCISSUS Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 289. 1753.

水仙属 shui xian shu

Herbs perennial, bulbiferous. Bulbs with a membranous tunic. Leaves basal, linear or terete. Flowering stem solid. Inflorescence a several-flowered umbel or sometimes a solitary flower; involucres membranous, basally tubular. Flowers erect or pendulous. Perianth tube cylindric or funnelform, short; lobes 6, erect or recurved, subequal; corona narrowly tubular, corollalike or shallowly cupular. Stamens inserted in perianth tube; anther basifix. Ovary with many ovules. Style filiform; stigma 3-lobed, small. Fruit a loculicidal capsule. Seeds subglobose.

About 60 species: mainly in C Europe and the Mediterranean region; one species in China.

Additional species of *Narcissus*, e.g., *N. jonquilla* Linnaeus and *N. pseudonarcissus* Linnaeus, are cultivated as garden plants in China but are not described in this account.

1. *Narcissus tazetta* Linnaeus var. **chinensis** M. Roemer, Fam.

Nat. Syn. Monogr. 4: 223. 1847.

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Bulbs ovoid. Leaves broadly linear, flat, 20–40 × 0.8–1.5 cm, margin entire, apex obtuse. Flowering stems usually equaling leaves. Umbels 4–8-flowered; involucres membranous. Flowers fragrant; pedicels unequal, perianth tube glaucous, ca. 2 cm, slender, nearly 3-angled; lobes widely spreading, white, broadly elliptic to ovate, apex shortly acute; corona pale yellow, shallowly cupular, less than 1/2 as long as perianth, margin not undulate. Stamens ca. 4 mm, not exserted. Fl. Feb–Mar. $2n = 30^*$.

- Sandy places, wastelands; near sea level to 100 m. SE Fujian, E Zhejiang.

Narcissus tazetta has a large number of forms occurring in S Europe, is very common in cultivation, and extends in a wild or naturalized state from S Europe through SW Asia to E Asia. It seems impossible to define clearly the delimitation of these forms by any important characters or definite manner. Although it is difficult to find differences between the Chinese entity and the original description of *N. tazetta*, this varietal name has been widely used in horticultural circles and we suggest maintaining it.

Narcissus tazetta var. *chinensis* is widely cultivated as an ornamental in China. It was reported to be introduced 1300–1400 years ago, and has become naturalized in coastal areas and offshore islands of Fujian and Zhejiang.

