CARICACEAE
番木瓜科 fan mu gua ke

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Trees small, palmlike, or shrubs, rarely vines, often prickly, monoecious, dioecious, andromonoecious, gynomonoecious, or polygamomonoecious. Stem stout, unbranched, rarely branched, with a terminal cluster of leaves, with flowing, latexlike exudate. Leaves alternate, long petiolate, usually estipulate, large; stipules when present, spiny; leaf blade palmate or palmatifid, rarely entire or pinnatifid. Inflorescences axillary; male flowers aggregated in cymose panicles; female flowers usually solitary or aggregated in corymbose cyms, large. Calyx 5-lobed; lobes small, conuate basally. Corolla 5-lobed; tube long in male flowers, short in female flowers. Stamens 5 or 10, 1- or 2-whorled, inserted in throat of corolla tube; filaments free, connate basally; anthers introrse, tetrasporangiate, dehiscing via longitudinal slits. Gynoecium in male flowers vestigial, or absent; in female flowers syncarpous, syno-ovarious to synstylovarious; ovary superior, 1- or 5-loculed, placentation when 1-loculed parietal (placentas ± deeply intruded) or laminar-dispersed, when 5-loculed axile; ovules numerous, anatropous, bitegmic; styles 1 or 5, free to partly joined, apical; stigmas 5, papillate, dry. Fruit large, fleshy, indehiscent berry. Seeds numerous, surrounded by mucilage; endosperm oily; embryo well differentiated; cotyledons 2, broad, flat. $n = 9$.

Six genera and 34 species: Central and South America, one genus of two species (Cyclicomorpha Urban) in tropical Africa, one genus (Carica) widely introduced and cultivated in tropical areas of the world, including China.


番木瓜属 fan mu gua shu

_Papaya_ Miller.

Trees small, or shrubs. Leaves subpeltate; leaf blade palmatifid, rarely entire. Flowers unisexual or bisexual. Male flowers: corolla lobes oblong or linear, valvate or contorted; stamens 10, filaments short; sterile ovary subulate. Female flowers: corolla lobes linear-oblong; stamens absent; ovary estipitate, 1-loculed; ovules several to numerous, placentation parietal; stigmas 5, inflated or linear. Fruit large, succulent. Seeds numerous, ovoid or slightly compressed, arillate; embryo compressed; cotyledons long elliptic.

One species: of cultivated origin in Central America, unknown in the wild; widely introduced and cultivated in tropical areas of the world, including China.

番木瓜 fan mu gua

_Papaya carica_ Gaertner.

Trees or shrubs 8–10 m tall. Stem simple, with stipulate scars helically arranged. Petiole hollow, 60–100 cm; leaf blade ca. 60 cm, usually 5–9 palmatifid; lobes pinnatifid. Male inflorescence pendulous, to 1 m. Male flowers: pedicel absent; corolla tube creamy yellow, 1.6–2.5 cm, lobes lanceolate, ca. 1.8 × 0.45 cm; stamens 5 longer and 5 shorter, shorter ones almost without filaments; filaments white, white tomentose. Female flowers usually solitary or aggregated in corymbose cyms; pedicel short or nearly absent; calyx lobes ca. 1 cm; corolla lobes creamy yellow, oblong or lanceolate, 5–6.2 × 1.2–2 cm; ovary ovoid; stigmas partite, nearly fimbriate. Bisexual flowers: corolla tube 1.9–2.5 cm, lobes oblong, ca. 2.8 × 0.9 cm; stamens 5 or 10 in 1 or 2 whorls; ovary smaller than in female flowers. Fruit orange-yellow or yellow at maturity, cylindric, ovoid-cylindric, or subglobose, 10–30 cm; sarcocarp soft with a mild, pleasant flavor. Seeds numerous, black at maturity, ovoid. $2n = 18$.

Cultivated. S China [of cultivated origin in Central America; widely introduced and cultivated in tropical areas of the world].

The large, succulent, delicious fruits (papaya) are eaten.

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