

21. HAEMATOXYLUM Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 384. 1753.

采木属 *cai mu shu*

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Trees or shrubs. Leaves abruptly pinnate or bipinnate by lower pinnae again divided; stipules spinescent, deciduous; stipels absent. Flowers yellow, small, in axillary, short, sparse racemes. Receptacle short. Calyx 5-lobed; lobes unequal. Stamens 10, free; filaments hairy at bases; anthers uniform, opening by lateral slits. Ovary shortly stalked, 2- or 3-ovuled; style filiform; stigma terminal, capitate. Legume compressed, oblong or lanceolate, membranous, splitting along middle of valves. Seeds transversely oblong, without endosperm; radicles straight.

About three species: S Africa, tropical regions of Central and North America including the West Indies and Mexico; cultivated in tropical Asia; one species (introduced) in China.

1. *Haematoxylum campechianum* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 384. 1753.

采木 *cai mu*

Trees, small, to 8 m tall, sometimes with spreading branches and shrubby. Trunk deeply sulcate. Bark light gray. Branchlets slender. Leaves 5–10 cm, shortly petiolate; leaflets 2–4 pairs, abaxially pale green, adaxially shiny, obovate to obcordate, 1–3 cm, papery, with fine veins, base cuneate, apex rounded or deeply emarginate. Racemes 2–5 cm, with several to numerous flowers; peduncles short. Pedicels 4–6 mm, slender. Calyx 3–4 mm; lobes oblong-lanceolate, apex acute. Petals yellow, narrowly obovate, 5–6 mm, apex obtuse. Stamens ca. as long as petals. Legume lanceolate-oblong, 2–5 × 0.8–1.2 cm; valves thin, with fine veins.

Cultivated in Guangdong (Guangzhou), Taiwan, Yunnan [native to Central America; widely introduced elsewhere].

The heartwood of this species is blood-red. Haematoxylin, extracted from the wood and flowers, is an important dye used for morphological anatomy and pharmacological preparations. It is also used medicinally as an astringent for treating dysentery and diarrhea.

