

166. **LENS** Miller, Gard. Dict. Abr., ed. 4, [765]. 1754, nom. cons.

兵豆属 *bing dou shu*

Bao Bojian (包伯坚); Nicholas J. Turland

Herbs annual. Stem erect or procumbent. Leaves paripinnate with rachis terminating in a tendril or mucro; stipules obliquely lanceolate; leaflets 2- to many paired, obovate, obovate-oblong, or obovate-lanceolate, margin entire. Inflorescence a 1- to many-flowered raceme. Flowers small. Calyx deeply divided into equal teeth at least $2 \times$ as long as tube. Corolla white or otherwise colored; standard obovate; wings and keel with claw and auricle. Stamens diadelphous; staminal tube oblique at apex; filaments filiform. Ovary shortly stalked or sessile; style dorsally compressed, pubescent on upper side. Legume short, strongly compressed. Seeds 1 or 2, brown, lenticular.

Four to six species: Mediterranean region to C Asia, extending to the Canary islands and tropical Africa: one species (introduced) in China.

1. *Lens culinaris* Medikus, Vorles. Churpfälz. Phys.-Öcon. Ges. 2: 361. 1787.

兵豆 *bing dou*

Ervum lens Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 738. 1753; *Lens esculenta* Moench; *Vicia lens* (Linnaeus) Cosson & Germain; *V. pisicarpa* H. Léveillé.

Plants 10–50 cm tall. Stem branched from base, pubescent. Leaves: stipules 3–7 mm, white villous; leaflets sessile, 4–12-

paired, 6–20 \times 2–5 mm, both surfaces villous. Raceme 1–3-flowered; rachis densely white hairy. Calyx densely villous. Corolla white or blue-purple, 4.5–6.5 mm. Ovary shortly stalked, glabrous. Legume yellow, oblong, inflated, 10–15 mm. Fl. Apr–Sep, fr. May–Sep. $2n = 14, 21, 26$.

Cultivated; 800–3600 m. Gansu, Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Jiangsu, Nei Mongol, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Sichuan, Xinjiang, Xizang, Yunnan [widely cultivated elsewhere; of cultivated origin].

The seeds (lentils) are edible.

