

28. LEUCAENA Bentham, J. Bot. (Hooker) 4: 416. 1842, nom. cons.

银合欢属 yin he huan shu

Trees or shrubs, evergreen, unarmed. Leaves bipinnate; stipules deciduous, small, setaceous; petiole often glandular; leaflets opposite, numerous and small, or few and larger, oblique. Heads solitary or fasciculate, axillary, globose, pedunculate; bracts usually 2. Flowers sessile, usually bisexual. Calyx campanulate, 5-toothed. Petals 5, free or nearly so. Stamens 10, free, exserted; anthers apically eglandular. Ovary stipitate; ovules numerous; style filiform. Legume stipitate, broadly linear, plano-compressed, leathery, 2-valved, continuous within. Seeds transverse, ovoid, flat.

About 22 species: native to the Americas, one species introduced and naturalized in the Old World including China.

1. *Leucaena leucocephala* (Lamarck) de Wit, Taxon 10: 54. 1961.

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Mimosa leucocephala Lamarck, Encycl. 1: 12. 1783; *Acacia glauca* Willdenow (1806), not (Linnaeus) Moench (1794); *Leucaena glauca* Bentham; *M. glauca* Linnaeus (1763), not Linnaeus (1753).

Shrubs or small trees, 2–6 m tall. Branchlets pubescent, glabrous when old, with brown lenticels. Stipules caducous, deltoid, very small; pinnae 4–8 pairs, 5–9(–16) cm, rachis pubescent with black glands at location of lowest pinnae; leaflets 5–15 pairs, linear-oblong, 7–13 × 1.5–3 mm, main vein close to upper margin, base cuneate, margin ciliate, apex acute. Heads

usually 1 or 2, axillary, 2–3 cm in diam.; peduncle 2–4 cm; bracts deciduous, pubescent. Flowers white. Calyx ca. 3 mm, outside glabrous at base, puberulent at apex, 5-toothed. Petals narrowly oblanceolate, ca. 5 mm, outside pubescent. Stamens 10, sparsely pubescent, ca. 7 mm. Ovary shortly stipitate, sparsely pubescent; stigma cupular. Legume straight, strap-shaped, flat, 10–18 × 1.4–2 cm, leathery, base attenuate, pedicel to 3 cm, pubescent, beak acute, hard. Seeds 6–25, brown, glossy, narrowly ovoid, flat, 6–9 × 3–4.5 mm. Fl. Apr–Jul, fr. Aug–Oct. $2n = 104^*$.

Cultivated and naturalized in Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Taiwan, Yunnan [originally from tropical America, widely distributed in tropical and subtropical regions].

This plant is grown for use as green manure and fodder.

