

## 16. MELIA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 384. 1753.

楝属 lian shu

Peng Hua (彭华); David J. Mabberley

Trees or shrubs, usually deciduous. Young parts usually covered with stellate trichomes. Branchlets with obvious leaf scars and lenticels. Leaves in spirals, 2- or 3-pinnate; leaflets with petiolules; leaflet blades with margin usually dentate or sometimes entire. Thyrses axillary, much branched, consisting of several dichasia. Flowers bisexual. Calyx 5- or 6-parted, imbricate. Petals 5 or 6, white or purple, distinct, linear-spatulate, expanding. Staminal tube cylindric, with 10–12 ribs, mouth expanding, margin 10–12-lobed; anthers 10–12, inserted between filament tube lobes, included or partly exerted. Disk annular. Ovary subglobose, 3–6-locular, with 2 superposed ovules per locule; stigma capitate, 3–6-lobed. Fruit a drupe, subfleshy; stone bony. Seeds pendulous; exotesta hard chitinous; endosperm fleshy, thin, or absent; cotyledons leaflike, thin; radicle cylindric.

Three species: S tropical Africa, tropical to temperate Asia; one species in China.

**1. *Melia azedarach*** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 384. 1753.

Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; tropical Australia, Pacific islands (Solomon Islands)].

楝 lian

*Melia azedarach* subvar. *intermedia* Makino; *M. azedarach* var. *intermedia* (Makino) Makino; *M. azedarach* var. *subtripinnata* Miquel; *M. azedarach* var. *toosendan* (Siebold & Zuccarini) Makino; *M. japonica* G. Don var. *semperflorens* Makino; *M. toosendan* Siebold & Zuccarini.

This species is cultivated and sometimes naturalized in many warm-temperate and tropical parts of the world. Because of its extensive cultivation and tendency to become naturalized in disturbed habitats, its original wild distribution is uncertain.

It is used medicinally, for industrial oil material, and for timber.

Trees to 10 m tall, deciduous. Bark brownish gray, longitudinally exfoliating. Branches spreading; branchlets with leaf scars. Leaves odd-pinnate, 2-pinnate or 3-pinnate, 20–40 cm; leaflets opposite; leaflet blades ovate, elliptic, or lanceolate, 3–7 × 2–3 cm but terminal one usually slightly larger, both surfaces with stellate trichomes when young but glabrescent, secondary veins 12–16 on each side of midvein, outspread and ascending, base ± oblique and cuneate to broadly cuneate, margin crenate or sometimes entire, apex shortly acuminate. Thyrses ± ca. 1/2 as long as leaves, glabrous or covered with short lepidote pubescence. Flowers fragrant. Calyx 5-parted; sepals ovate to oblong-ovate, outside puberulent, apex acute. Petals lilac-colored, ovate-spatulate, 0.9–1.3 cm, both surfaces puberulent but usually outside more densely so. Staminal tube purple, 7–8 mm, with longitudinal stripes, glabrous or subglabrous, apical margin with 10 narrow lobes; lobes conic, further 2- or 3-lobed; anthers 10, inserted on inner side of lobes and alternate to lobes, narrowly elliptic, apex slightly mucronulate. Ovary spherical, glabrous, 5–8-locular, with 2 ovules per locule; style acerose; stigma capitate, not included within filament tube, apex 5-dentate. Drupe globose to ellipsoid, 1–3 × 0.8–1.5 cm; endocarp ligneous. Seed ellipsoid. Fl. Mar–May, fr. Oct–Dec.

Mixed evergreen broad-leaved and deciduous forests, sparse forests, field margins, roadsides; 500–2100 m. Anhui, Fujian, S Gansu, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, S Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, S Shaanxi, Shandong, S Shanxi, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, SE Xizang, Zhejiang [Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal,

Fl. China 11: 130–131. 2008.