

## 2. LAVATERA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2: 690. 1753.

花葵屬 hua kui shu

Herbs or shrubs. Leaves long petiolate; leaf blade deeply cordate, palmately 5–7-lobed. Flowers solitary, fascicled, or arranged in terminal racemes. Epicalyx lobes 3–6, connate basally. Calyx campanulate, 5-lobed. Corolla various colored, rarely yellow; petals 5, base clawed, apex emarginate or truncate. Filament tube with anthers near apex. Ovary 7–25-loculed; ovules 1 per locule, erect; style branches as many as locules; stigmas decurrent, filiform. Fruit a flattened-globose schizocarp, persistent style base swollen, conical or disk-shaped; mericarps 7–25, semicircular-wedge-shaped, lateral margins rounded, sides smooth or reticulate, abaxially smooth, glabrous or ± pubescent. Seeds reniform, glabrous, free from mericarp wall.

About 25 species: America, Asia, Australia, Europe; one species in China.

See the comments after *Malva* on the relationship of these two genera. Records of *Lavatera trimestris* Linnaeus from the Flora area were based on plants cultivated in Beijing. It is an annual with ovate stipules and a glabrous filament tube.

**1. *Lavatera cachemiriana*** Cambessèdes in Jacquemont, Voy. Inde 4(Bot.): 29. 1841.

新疆花葵 xin jiang hua kui

*Althaea cachemiriana* (Cambessèdes) Kuntze [“*kashmiriana*”]; *Lavatera cachemiriana* var. *haroonii* Abedin.

Herbs perennial, to 1 m tall, stellate pilose. Stipules filiform, ca. 8 mm, stellate tomentose; petiole 1–4 cm, stellate pilose; leaf blades dimorphic, basal leaf blades nearly orbicular, apical blades usually 3–5-lobed, 4–8 × 5–9 cm, lobes triangular, abaxially stellate tomentose, adaxially stellate pilose, base cordate, margin crenate, apex obtuse. Flowers in terminal subracemes or in axillary fascicles. Pedicel 4–8 cm, stellate pilose. Epicalyx lobes 3, broadly ovate, connate basally into cup ca. 1

cm, stellate tomentose, entire. Calyx campanulate, ca. 1.5 × 1.5 cm, 5-lobed, lobes ovate-lanceolate, stellate tomentose, apex acuminate. Corolla reddish purple, ca. 8 cm in diam.; petals obovate, ca. 4 × 2 cm, basally densely stellate hairy, base acuminate, apex 2-divided. Staminal column ca. 1.5 cm, sparsely hirsute. Mericarps 20–25, reniform, glabrous. Fl. Jun–Aug.

Sunny slopes, wet meadows; 500–2200 m. NW Xinjiang [India, Kashmir, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan].

This species is grown frequently as an ornamental and garden plant. Most material belongs to *Lavatera cachemiriana* var. *cachemiriana*. *Lavatera cachemiriana* var. *haroonii* Abedin differs in having simple or 2- or 3-rayed hairs on the adaxial leaf surface, and it is endemic to Pakistan. *Lavatera cachemiriana* is closely related to *L. thuringiaca* Linnaeus and may only represent a minor variant of that species at the eastern edge of its range.

