

**19. MELHANIA** Forsskål, Fl. Aegypt.-Arab. 64. 1775.

梅蓝属 mei lan shu

Small shrubs or herbs. Leaves simple, hairy, margin serrate. Flowers axillary, solitary or in short racemes. Epicalyx lobes (2 or)3, cordate or reniform, usually longer than sepals, persistent. Calyx 5-divided. Petals 5, enclosing ovary and persistent. Filament tube cup-shaped, very short; 5 tongue-shaped staminodes alternating with 5 stamens. Ovary sessile, 5-loculed; ovules 1 to many per locule; style subulately 5-branched. Capsule 5, dehiscent. Seeds with endosperm; cotyledons plicate, 2-lobed at apex.

About 60 species: primarily in Africa, C Asia, Australia, and Madagascar; one species in China.

**1. *Melhania hamiltoniana*** Wallich, Pl. Asiat. Rar. 1: 69. 1830.

梅蓝 mei lan

Small shrubs, up to 1 m tall. Branchlets densely yellowish brown puberulent. Stipules linear pointed, very tiny, ca. 4 mm, much shorter than petiole, caducous; petiole 1–1.5 cm, densely yellowish brown puberulent; leaf blade broadly ovate or elliptic-ovate, 2.5–4 × 1.5–3 cm, both surfaces densely puberulent, abaxially white-gray, base rounded or shallowly cordate, margin serrulate, apex obtuse. Inflorescence axillary, shortly racemose, up to 5 cm, usually longer than leaves, densely puberulent, usually 3–5-flowered; pedicel ca. 6 mm. Epicalyx lobes 2 or 3, ovate, ca. 6 mm, densely puberulent, base narrow, adnate

to lower part of calyx, margin slightly reflexed. Calyx lobes lanceolate, 8–9 mm, apex acute. Petals yellow, obovate-triangular, ca. 1 cm, longer than calyx, apex truncate. Staminodes 5, tongue-shaped, connate at base, ca. 8 mm, alternating with stamens, much longer than stamens. Ovary ovoid, ca. 2.5 mm, puberulent; ovules 3 or 4 per locule; style ca. 2 mm; stigma lobes curved outward, puberulent. Capsule ovoid, ca. 7 mm, apex obtuse, enclosed by persistent sepals and bracteoles, dehiscent. Seeds 2–3 in each locule, black-brown, elliptic, ca. 2 mm.

Grassy slopes; 400–500 m. S Yunnan (Yuanjiang) [India, Myanmar].

