

1. XANTHOCERAS Bunge, Enum. Pl. China Bor. 11. 1833.

文冠果属 wen guan guo shu

Shrubs or trees. Leaves imparipinnate; leaflets serrate. Bracts ovate, large; flowers polygamous, male flowers and bisexual flowers on same plant but not in same inflorescence, actinomorphic. Sepals 5, oblong, imbricate. Petals 5, broadly obovate, shortly clawed, scale absent. Disk 5-lobed, lobes alternate to petals, apex with a hornlike appendage abaxially. Stamens 8, not exerted; anthers ellipsoid, apex of connectives and base of cells with 1 globose gland. Ovary ellipsoid, 3-loculed; ovules 7 or 8 per locule, in 2 lines; style terminal, erect; stigma papillate. Capsules subglobose or broadly ellipsoid, 3-ridged, loculicidal into 3 schizocarps, 3-loculed; pericarp thick, rigid, containing fiber bundles. Seeds several per locule, compressed-globose, pericarp thickly leathery, arillode absent; hilum semilunar, large; embryo arched, cotyledons one large and one small. $2n = 30$.

One species: N and NE China, Korea.

There is some support based primarily on DNA sequence data to place *Xanthoceras* as sister to all other members of Sapindaceae s.l. including Aceraceae and Hippocastanaceae (see Harrington et al., Syst. Bot. 30: 366. 2005).

Xanthoceras enkianthiflorum H. Léveillé (Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. 12: 534. 1913, "*enkianthiflora*"), described from Guizhou, is a synonym of *Staphylea holocarpa* Hemsley in the Staphyleaceae (see Fl. China 11).

1. *Xanthoceras sorbifolium* Bunge, Enum. Pl. China Bor. 11. 1833 [*"sorbifolia"*].

文冠果 wen guan guo

Shrubs or small trees, deciduous, 2–5 m tall. Branches brownish red, strong, stout, glabrous; terminal buds and lateral buds with imbricate scales. Leaves with petiole 15–30 cm; leaflets 4–8-jugate, abaxially green when fresh, adaxially deep green, lanceolate or subovate, bilaterally slightly asymmetrical, 2.5–6 × 1.2–2 cm, membranous or papery, abaxially tomentose and fascicled stellate when young, adaxially glabrous or sparsely hairy on midvein, lateral veins slender, slightly prominent on both sides, base cuneate, apex acuminate, margin

sharply serrate; terminal leaflet usually deeply 3-lobed. Inflorescences terminal, male ones axillary, erect, 12–20 cm; peduncle short, often with rudimentary scales at base. Pedicels 1.2–2 cm; bracts 0.5–1 cm. Sepals 6–7 mm, grayish tomentose. Petals white, purplish red or yellow at base, ca. 2 × 0.7–1 cm, with evident veins, claw ciliate on both sides; hornlike appendage on disk orange, 4–5 mm. Stamens ca. 1.5 cm; filaments glabrous. Ovary grayish tomentose. Capsules black, shiny, ca. 1.8 cm. Fl. spring, fr. early autumn. $2n = 30$.

Hills and slopes. Gansu, Hebei, Henan, Nei Mongol, Ningxia, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanxi [Korea].

The seeds are edible.

