

5. MESUA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 515. 1753.

铁力木属 tie li mu shu

Li Xiwen (李锡文 Li Hsi-wen), Li Jie (李捷); Peter F. Stevens

Trees. Apical bud abortive; axillary buds with scales. Leaves opposite, petiolate, leathery, usually with inconspicuous, translucent glands; secondary veins many, slender; tertiary veins scalariform, not prominent. Flowers bisexual, homostylous, solitary, axillary [or in axillary thyrses]. Sepals 4[or 5], imbricate. Petals 4[or 5], imbricate. Stamens many, not obviously fascicled, in continuous ring; filaments free, slender; anthers erect, basifixed; fascicled absent. Ovary 2-loculed, with 2 erect ovules per locule; styles united, elongate; stigma peltate. Capsule subwoody, septifragal; septae persistent. Seeds 1–4, without appendage; embryo with broad fleshy cotyledons.

About five species: India and Sri Lanka to peninsular Malaysia, possibly Java, and China; one species (introduced) in China.

1. *Mesua ferrea* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 515. 1753.

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Calophyllum nagassarium N. L. Burman; *Mesua nagassarium* (N. L. Burman) Kostermans.

Trees evergreen, 20–30 m tall. Trunk upright, buttressed at base; crown conic. Bark dark gray-brown, thin, fissured, lamellate, exuding aromatic white resin when wounded. Leaves always pendulous; petiole 5–8 mm; leaf blade reddish yellow when young, becoming dark green, abaxially usually glaucous, adaxially dark green and somewhat lucid, lanceolate or narrowly ovate-lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, (4–)6–10(–12) × (1–)2–4 cm, leathery; secondary veins numerous, obliquely parallel, slender and indistinct; tertiary veins and veinlets reticulate, ± visible under hand lens, base cuneate, apex acuminate or long acuminate to caudate. Pedicel 3–5 mm. Flowers

bisexual, solitary, axillary, 5–8.5 cm in diam. Sepals (outer 2 slightly larger than inner 2) orbicular, convex, margin membranous and sometimes white ciliate. Petals white, obovate-cuneate, 3–3.5 cm. Stamens with filaments filiform, 1.5–2 cm; anthers golden-yellow, oblong. Ovary conic, ca. 1.5 cm; style 1–1.5 cm; stigma oblique. Fruit broadly ovoid or laterally depressed globose, ca. 3 × 2.5 cm, dry, longitudinally rugose, with stoutly pointed style at apex, usually dehiscent by 2 valves, with accrescent woody sepals and many persistent filaments at base; stalk robust, 0.8–1.2 cm. Seeds 1–4, ± irregular in shape; coat brown, fragile. Fl. Mar–May, fr. Aug–Oct. $2n = 32$.

Usually cultivated, escaped and locally naturalized in SW Yunnan (Gengma: Mengding); 500–600 m. Guangdong (Xinyi), Guangxi (Rongxian, Tengxian), S, SW, and W Yunnan [Bangladesh, India, ?Indonesia (Java), Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand].

The seeds yield up to 79% oil, which is inedible but is used industrially. The wood is very hard. The tree is a handsome ornamental.

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