

1. PERESKIA Miller, Gard. Dict. Abr., ed. 4. 1754.

木麒麟屬 mu qi lin shu

Shrubs or climbers, or trees to 20 m tall. Branches terete, slightly fleshy when young; areoles with spines; glochids absent. Leaves somewhat fleshy, sessile or petiolate, broad, flat, pinnately veined, estipulate. Flowers solitary, or in fasciculate, subcorymbose, racemose or paniculate inflorescences, stalked or sessile. Receptacle not produced into a tube beyond ovary, with numerous, ± leafy, often persistent scales. Perianth multiseriate; segments free, spreading or rotate, white to red, magenta or orange. Stamens numerous, inserted at base of perianth. Ovary (pericarpel) superior to inferior; placentas basal or parietal. Fruit globose, pear-shaped, or obovoid, fleshy, with or without scattered, leaflike scales. Seeds 2 to numerous; testa glossy black, brittle.

Seventeen species: tropical and subtropical America; five species cultivated as ornamentals in China, of which one species escaped from cultivation.

1. *Pereskia aculeata* Miller, Gard. Dict., ed. 8, *Pereskia* No. 1. 1768.

木麒麟 mu qi lin

Cactus pereskia Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 469. 1753.

Shrubs, at first erect, later clambering, 3–10 m tall. Areoles cushionlike and to 15 mm in diam. on trunk, 1.5–2 mm in diam. on twigs. Spines 1–3 per areole, on main branches acicular and straight, 1–4(–8) cm, on young branches additionally with 2 short, broadly based, recurved spines for climbing. Petiole 3–7 mm; leaf blade green or abaxially purplish, ovate, elliptic, or obovate, 4.5–7(–10) × 1.5–5 cm, glabrous, base cuneate to rounded, margin entire, apex shortly acuminate or acute; lateral veins 4–7. Flowers 3–4 cm in diam., fragrant (diosmin); pedicel 5–10 mm. Sepaloids pale green, ovate or obovate. Petaloids white to pale yellow, obovate to spatulate, 15–20 × 6–8 mm, margin entire, apex acute to truncate. Filaments white or golden, 5–7 mm; anthers yellow, 1–1.2 mm. Ovary superior; style white, 10–11 mm; stigmas 4–7, white, 3–4 mm. Fruit light yellow, obovoid or globose, 1–2 cm, spines eventually deciduous. Seeds 2–5, lenticular, 4.5–5 mm in diam., 1.4–1.6 mm thick.

Thickets beside railways; near sea level. S Fujian (Xiamen) [native to tropical America and the West Indies; widely introduced and escaped in tropical regions].

This species was first introduced to China in 1901.

CACTACEAE