

## 11. CATHARANTHUS G. Don, Gen. Hist. 4: 95. 1837.

长春花属 chang chun hua shu

Herbs erect, perennial and often woody at base, juice watery. Leaves opposite; petiole short, intra- and interpetiolar glands present; leaf blade herbaceous to somewhat leathery, entire. Flowers terminal and axillary, solitary or rarely in 2- or 3-flowered cymes. Sepals small, narrowly oblong, awl-shaped, without glands. Corolla purple, red, pink, or white, salverform; tube glabrous or sparsely puberulent, throat constricted, woolly to velvety; lobes spreading, obliquely obovate, overlapping to left, apex apiculate. Stamens inserted in widened portion of corolla tube; anthers free, oblong, base obtuse; disc of 2 glands. Ovaries 2; ovules numerous. Style filiform; pistil head with a cylindric base and reflexed hyaline frill. Follicles 2, cylindric, apex acute. Seeds black, oblong, testa rugose.

Eight species: seven endemic to Madagascar, one restricted to India and Sri Lanka; one species cultivated in China.

### 1. *Catharanthus roseus* (Linnaeus) G. Don, Gen. Hist. 4: 95. 1837.

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*Vinca rosea* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat. ed. 10. 944. 1759; *Ammocallis rosea* (Linnaeus) Small; *Catharanthus roseus* var. *albus* G. Don; *Lochnera rosea* (Linnaeus) Reichenbach ex Endlicher; *L. rosea* var. *alba* (G. Don) Hubbard; *L. rosea* var. *flava* Tsiang; *Pervinca rosea* (Linnaeus) Moench; *V. rosea* var. *alba* (G. Don) Sweet.

Subshrubs or perennial herbs to 1 m tall, erect or decumbent. Young stems puberulent. Leaves obovate or elliptic, 2.5–9 × 1–3.5 cm, herbaceous, apex minutely apiculate; lateral veins 7–11 pairs. Corolla red to pink or white and then mostly with a pink or less often yellow eye; tube 2.5–3 cm, pilose inside, throat villous; lobes broadly obovate, 1.2–2 cm. Follicles 2–3.8 cm × ca. 3 mm. Fl. spring–autumn.  $2n = 16$ .

Fujian, Guizhou, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [native to Madagascar, cultivated or naturalized in all tropical countries].

Cultivated for medicine. Decoction of all parts is used in the treatment of malaria, skin diseases, Hodgkin's disease, diarrhea, hypertension, and diabetes.

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