1. NICANDRA Adanson, Fam. Pl. 2: 219. 1763.

假酸浆属 jia suan jiang shu

Herbs, with simple and glandular hairs. Leaves petiolate; leaf blade simple. Flowers solitary, axillary or in branch forks, pedicellate, actinomorphic. Calyx campanulate, deeply 5-parted. Corolla campanulate, shallowly lobed; lobes ovate. Stamens included, inserted on corolla tube; filaments slender; anthers elliptic, dehiscing longitudinally. Ovary 3–5-locular; ovules numerous. Style filiform; stigma subcapitate, 3–5-lobed. Fruiting calyx conspicuously enlarged, persistent, enclosing fruit, lobes cordate-sagittate, each with 2 basal auriculate lobes. Berry globose, dry. Seeds reniform-discoid, compressed, pitted; embryo much curved, subperipheral, cotyledons subcylindric.

Monotypic: widely cultivated or naturalized, also in China.

1. Nicandra physalodes (Linnaeus) Gaertner, Fruct. Sem. Pl. 2: 237. 1791.

假酸浆 jia suan jiang

Atropa physalodes Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 181. 1753.

Stems erect, angular, 40–150 cm tall, glabrescent or sparsely pubescent. Petiole 1.5–6 cm; leaf blade ovate or elliptic, 4–20×2–13 cm, papery, sparsely pubescent on both surfaces, base cuneate, margin lobed or coarsely sinuate-dentate, apex acute or short acuminate. Pedicel 1.5–4 cm. Calyx 0.8–3 cm, deeply parted; lobes broadly ovate, apex acute, 2.5–4 cm in diam. Corolla pale blue, blue-purple, or bluish with white center, 2.5–4 cm wide. Berry brown or yellow, 1–2 cm in diam. Seeds pale brown, 1–1.2 mm in diam. Fl. summer, fr. autumn.

Near fields, houses, and hills, wastelands; 800–2600 m. Naturalized in Gansu, Guizhou, Hebei, Sichuan, Xinjiang, Xizang, Yunnan [widely distributed; native to Peru].

Whole plant used as a sedative and cough remedy.