

34. BENINCASA Savi, *Bibliot. Ital. Giorn. Lett.* 9: 158. 1818.

冬瓜属 *dong gua shu*

Lu Anmin (路安民 *Lu An-ming*); Charles Jeffrey

Camolenga Post & Kuntze.

Herbs, creeping, annual, all parts densely hispid. Leaves palmately 5-lobed; petiole eglandular. Tendrils 2- or 3-fid. Plants usually monoecious; flowers solitary. Male flowers: calyx tube broadly campanulate; segments reflexed, almost leaflike, dentate; corolla rotate, usually 5-lobed; segments obovate, entire; stamens 3, free, inserted on corolla tube; filaments short; anthers one 1-celled, two 2-celled; anther cells very sigmoid-flexuous; connective margined; pistillode glandlike. Female flowers: calyx and corolla as in male flowers; staminodes 3; ovary ovoid; ovules numerous, horizontal; style inserted on disk; stigmas 3, expanded, 2-lobed. Fruit large, oblong, baccate, terete, hispid, glaucous, indehiscent. Seeds numerous, ovoid-oblong, compressed, margin tumid.

One species: cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions of the world, including China.

1. *Benincasa hispida* (Thunberg) Cogniaux in A. Candolle & C. Candolle, *Monogr. Phan.* 3: 513. 1881.

冬瓜 *dong gua*

Cucurbita hispida Thunberg, *Nova Acta Regiae Soc. Sci. Upsal.* 4: 38. 1783; *Benincasa cerifera* Savi; *B. hispida* var. *chieh-qua* F. C. How; *B. pruriens* (Solander ex Seemann) W. J. de Wilde & Duyfjes; *B. pruriens* f. *hispida* (Thunberg) W. J. de Wilde & Duyfjes; *C. pruriens* Solander ex Seemann; *Lagenaria leucantha* Rusby var. *hispida* (Thunberg) Nakai; *L. siceraria* (Molina) Standley var. *hispida* (Thunberg) H. Hara; *L. vulgaris* Seringe var. *hispida* (Thunberg) Nakai.

Plants creeping or scandent. Stem and branches yellow-brown hispid and villous, sulcate-angular. Petiole robust, 5–20 cm, yellow-brown hispid and villous; leaf blade reniform-orbicular, 15–30 cm wide, 5–7-lobed; lobes broadly triangular

or ovate, both surfaces scabrous, abaxially densely pubescent, adaxially puberulent, base deeply cordate, sinus almost rounded, margin dentate, apex acute. Male flowers: pedicel 5–15 cm, densely hispid and villous; bract ovate or broadly oblong, 6–10 mm, apex acute; calyx tube 12–15 mm in diam., densely hispid-villous; segments 8–12 mm; corolla yellow; segments 3–6 × 2.5–3.5 cm, both surfaces pubescent; filaments 2–3 mm, base expanded; anthers ca. 5 mm. Female flowers: pedicel less than 5 cm, densely yellow-brown hispid and villous; ovary ovoid or cylindrical, 2–4 cm, densely hispid; style 2–3 mm; stigmas 12–15 mm. Fruit 50–60 × 10–25 cm. Seeds white or pale yellow, 10–11 × 5–7 mm, ca. 2 mm thick, marginate. Fl. Jun–Sep, fr. Jul–Nov.

Commonly cultivated in China [native origin uncertain; cultivated throughout the tropics, especially in Asia].

The fruit is eaten as a vegetable; the seeds are used medicinally.

