

14. CERISCOIDES (Bentham & J. D. Hooker) Tirvengadam, Bull. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat., Sér. 3, Bot. 35: 13. 1978.

木瓜榄属 mu gua lan shu

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Gardenia sect. *Ceriscoides* Bentham & J. D. Hooker, Gen. Pl. 2: 90. 1873.

Shrubs or small trees, dioecious [or polygamo-dioecious], often with short shoots, unarmed or with spines or spinescent short shoots. Raphides absent. Leaves opposite but usually crowded on short shoots and apparently fasciculate, sometimes with domatia; stipules caducous, interpetiolar, triangular. Inflorescences terminal on lateral branches or short shoots [sometimes cauliflorous], sessile to pedunculate, bracteate, staminate 2-flowered or 2- or 3-flowered and cymose, pistillate 1-flowered. Flowers sessile to pedicellate, unisexual [sometimes bisexual and monomorphic]. Calyx with ovary portion hemispherical to ellipsoid in pistillate flowers, markedly turbinate with base narrowed in staminate flowers; limb subtruncate to 5(-7)-lobed. Corolla white to pale green, tubular-campanulate or funnellform, glabrous inside; lobes 5(-7), convolute in bud. Stamens 5(-7), inserted in corolla throat, included, staminodes markedly reduced; filaments short; anthers dorsifixed. Ovary 1-celled, ovules numerous in each cell on 2-4[-6] parietal placentas; stigmas 2[-6]-lobed, included. Fruit brown, baccate, fleshy, globose to ellipsoid, smooth, with calyx limb persistent; seeds numerous, large, ellipsoid to lenticular, embedded in fleshy pulp.

About 11 species: China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; one species (endemic) in China.

Ceriscoides was recently studied by Azmi (Harvard Pap. Bot. 7(2): 443-464. 2003). H. S. Lo (in FRPS 71(1): 337. 1999) described the placentas as 2-4 and the stigmas of our species as 2, but Azmi (loc. cit.: 445) described both of these as 3-6.

1. *Ceriscoides howii* H. S. Lo, Bull. Bot. Res., Harbin 18: 281. 1998.

木瓜榄 mu gua lan

Shrubs, 3-4 m tall; branches angled, pale red or pale yellow, often stout, armed with spines 2.5-4 mm. Petiole 2-5 mm, glabrous; leaf blade drying olive-green and abaxially paler, narrowly elliptic or oblong-lanceolate, 5-11 × 1.5-4 cm, both surfaces glabrous, base obtuse to acute or rarely subrounded, apex acuminate to slightly obtuse; secondary veins 5 or 6 pairs, with pilosulous domatia in abaxial axils; stipules triangular, ca. 2

mm. Inflorescences glabrescent; bracteoles squamiform, erose. Flowers subsessile. Calyx glabrous; limb ca. 4.5 mm, subtruncate or 5-denticulate. Corolla pale yellow, tubular-campanulate to tubular-funnelform, glabrous outside; tube at base ca. 3 mm in diam., in throat 6-7 mm in diam., glabrous inside, in staminate flower 10-11.5 mm, in pistillate flower 13-13.5 mm; lobes 5, suborbicular, 3.5-4 mm, obtuse. Style stout, 5-6 mm. Berry brown, ovoid to subglobose, 3.5-4.5 cm, glabrous, smooth; seeds dark brown, oblong or ellipsoid, 8-10 mm, rather shiny. Fl. Oct, fr. Apr of following year.

- Forests in valleys; 400-500 m. Hainan.

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