

1. ARGEMONE Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 508. 1753.

薊罌粟屬 *ji ying su shu*

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Herbs, annual, biennial, or perennial, usually stout, mostly branched, spiny, bitter yellow lactiferous. Stems mostly erect. Leaves pinnate, lobes repand dentate, teeth apically spiny. Flowers solitary, terminal or arranged in cyme, trimerous; receptacles narrowly conical. Flower buds erect. Sepals (2 or)3, caducous, apex with horned appendices. Petals (4–)6, in 2 whorls, contorted or imbricate in bud, orange, yellow, yellow-white, or white, occasionally pink or mauve. Stamens many, free; filaments filiform or slightly ampliate below middle, apically subulate; anthers linear, nearly basal, bifid, extrorse, curved after dehiscence. Ovary ovoid, conical-ovoid, or nearly elliptic; carpels (3 or)4–6, united; ovules many; styles very short or absent; stigmas as many as carpels, actinomorphic. Capsule spiny, rarely not spiny, apex divided for a short distance into 3–6 valves, rarely parting nearly to base. Seeds many, spheroidal; caruncle very small or absent, seed coat tessellate.

Twenty-nine species: mainly in North America from United States to C Mexico and the West Indies, nine species in South America (three in Chile), one in Hawaii, and the others scattered along the NW and W coasts of the Americas; one species (introduced) in China.

1. *Argemone mexicana* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 508. 1753.

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Herbs, annual or occasionally short-lived perennial, 30–100 cm tall, usually stout. Stems mostly short, branched, with sparse explanate fulvous spines. Basal leaves dense; petiole 5–10 mm; blade glaucous with blue-green markings on veins, paler abaxially, broadly oblanceolate or obovate to elliptic, 5–20(–25) × 2.5–7.5(–8) cm, glabrous, sparsely sharply spiny on veins, base cuneate, margin pinnatipartite, apex acute; lobes undulate teeth, teeth apically spiny. Cauline leaves alternate, similar to basal leaves, but upper leaves smaller and sessile, often subamplexicaul. Flowers solitary, sometimes in few-flowered cymes. Pedicel very short. Flower buds ovoid, ca. 1.5 cm. Sepals 2(or 3), cymbiform, ca. 1 cm, apex spurred, glabrous or

sparsely spiny. Petals 6, yellow or orange, broadly obovate, 1.7–3 cm, base broadly cuneate, apex rounded. Filaments ca. 7 mm; anthers narrowly oblong, 1.5–2 mm, coiling after dehiscence. Ovary elliptic or oblong, 7–10 mm, with explanate fulvous spines; styles very short; stigmas dark red, 4–6-lobed. Capsule oblong to broadly elliptic, 2.5–5 × 1.5–3 cm, sparsely fulvous spiny, 4–6-valved dehiscing from apex to 1/4–1/3 of length. Seeds spherical, 1.5–2 mm in diam., obviously tessellate. Fl. and fr. Mar–Oct. $2n = 28$.

Naturalized along coasts, introduced in courtyards. Naturalized in Fujian, Guangdong, Taiwan, ?Yunnan; introduced in many provinces in China [native to Central and tropical America].

This is a widely cultivated plant which has become a naturalized weed in many parts of the world, particularly in subtropical regions. The seeds are poisonous.

PAPAVERACEAE