
Trees producing latex. Leaves spirally arranged, often closely clustered at end of branchlets; stipules small to very large, usually early deciduous; leaf blade leathery to almost leathery. Flowers solitary or clustered in axils, sometimes terminal, usually with a long pedicel. Sepals 4(–6) in 2 whorls, inner ones often with margin membranous and ciliate, outer sepals usually hirsute. Corolla cylindric, with hairs at throat; lobes (5–)8(–18), usually woolly pubescent between stamens, appendages absent. Stamens in 1–3 whorls, inserted in corolla throat and alternate with lobes, glabrous or tomentose, sessile or subsessile; staminodes absent. Ovary usually pubescent, 6–8(–12)-locular. Style subulate, persistent. Berry globose to ellipsoid, with enlarged persistent brown calyx, 1–4-seeded. Seed scar linear to oblong or elliptic.

About 100 species: Australia, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; two species in China.

1a. Leaf blade apex acuminate to acute, glabrous; corolla yellowish green, 5–7.5 mm; sepals 3–6 mm; stamens (16–)18–22(–24) .......................................................... ...................................................... 1. M. pasquieri

1b. Leaf blade apex rounded and retuse, abaxially reddish sericeous tomentose when young; corolla white, 10–12 mm; sepals 6.5–8 mm; stamens 28–30 ......................................................... 2. M. hainanensis
紫荆木 zi jing mu  


Trees to 30 m tall. Trunk to 60 cm d.b.h., bark blackish. Branchlets densely lenticellate, rust colored tomentose, glabrescent. Leaves scattered or more often closely clustered at end of branchlets; stipules lanceolate-linear, ca. 3 × 1 mm, early deciduous; petiole slender, 1.5–3.5 cm, rust colored to grayish pubescent; leaf blade obovate to obovate-oblong, 6–16 × 2–6 cm, glabrous, base broadly acuminate to cuneate, apex broadly acuminate to abruptly acute; lateral veins 13–22(–26) pairs. Flowers several, axillary, fascicled. Pedicel 1.5–3.5 cm, rust colored to grayish pubescent. Sepals 4(or 5), 3–6 × 3–5 mm, rust colored to grayish pubescent. Corolla yellowish green, 5–7.5 mm, glabrous; lobes 6–11. Stamens (16–)18–22(–24). Ovary ovoid, 1–2 mm, 6-locular, densely rust colored pubescent. Style subulate, 8–10 mm, densely rust colored pubescent. Fruit ellipsoid to globose, with elongated style, 2–3 × 1.5–2 cm, rust colored tomentose but glabrescent; pericarp fleshy; 1–5-seeded. Seeds ellipsoid, 1.8–2.7 × 1–1.2 cm, with oblong scar. Fl. Jul–Sep, fr. Oct–Jan.  

Forests; below 1100 m. SW Guangdong, S Guangxi, SE Yunnan [Vietnam].  
The seeds contain 30% edible oil. The plants are a source of valuable timber.  

海南紫荆木 hai nan zi jing mu  

Trees 9–30 m tall. Bark dark grayish brown, rust colored and shining villous when young. Leaves often closely clustered at end of branches; stipules ca. 3 × 1 mm, tomentose, early deciduous; petiole 1.5–3 cm, gray tomentose; leaf blade oblong-obovate to oblong-ob lanceolate, 6–12 × 2.5–4 cm, abaxially rust colored sericeous when young but glabrescent, adaxially glabrous and shiny, apex rounded and usually retuse; lateral veins 20–30 pairs, slender, conspicuous. Flowers 1–3, axillary, nodding. Pedicel 2–3 cm, densely rust colored sericeous. Sepals elliptic to ovate-triangular, 1.5–8(–12) × 5.5–6.5 mm, both surfaces densely rust colored velutinous, apex obtuse. Corolla white, 1–1.2 cm, glabrous, 8–10-lobed. Stamens 28–30 in 3 whorls. Ovary ovoid-globose, rust colored sericeous, 6–8-locular. Style ca. 1.2 cm, base sericeous. Fruiting peduncle thick, 3–4.5 cm. Fruit greenish yellow, ovoid-globose to globose, 2.5–3 × 2–2.8 cm, pubescent, 1–5-seeded. Seeds oblong-ellipsoid, compressed, 2–2.5 × 0.8–1.2 cm, brown, shiny, scar elliptic. Fl. Jun–Sep, fr. Sep–Dec.  

* Common in evergreen forest; ca. 100 m. Hainan.  
The seeds contain 55% oil, and the timber is used for boats and bridges.