

CANNACEAE

美人蕉科 mei ren jiao ke

Wu Delin (吴德邻 Wu Te-lin)¹; W. John Kress²

Herbs perennial. Stems erect, robust. Rhizomes tuberous. Leaves alternate, spirally arranged, large, veins pinnate and parallel, base sheathing. Inflorescence a terminal raceme or panicle of showy, 1- or 2-flowered cincinni. Flowers bisexual, asymmetric, mostly large. Sepals 3, green, free, persistent. Corolla lobes 3, green or colored, basally connate into a tube and adnate to staminodes. Staminodes and stamen in 2 whorls: outer whorl with (2 or)3 conspicuous, petaloid staminodes, usually red or yellow; inner whorl with a reflexed staminode (labellum), narrower than outer staminodes, and a fertile stamen; filament petaloid; anther 1-loculed, adnate to apical margin of filament. Ovary inferior, 3-loculed; ovules numerous per locule; placentation axile. Style petaloid. Fruit a capsule, 3-valved, usually warty. Seeds many, globose; endosperm copious; embryo straight.

One genus and ten to twenty species: tropical and subtropical America; one species (introduced) in China.

Several other species and hybrids, including *Canna flaccida* Salisbury, *C. ×generalis* L. H. Bailey, *C. glauca* Linnaeus, and *C. ×orchiodes* L. H. Bailey, are occasionally grown in China as ornamentals, but only the most common species is described in this account.

Wu Te-lin & Chen Sen-jen. 1981. Cannaceae. In: Wu Te-lin, ed., Fl. Reipubl. Popularis Sin. 16(2): 152–158.

1. CANNA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 1. 1753.

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Morphological characters and geographic distribution are the same as those for the family.

1. *Canna indica* Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 1. 1753.

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Canna edulis Ker Gawler.

Rhizome developed, much branched. Stems stout, to 2.5 m. Leaf sheath green or purple; petiole short; leaf blade adaxially green, abaxially and at margin green or purple, ovate-oblong to oblong, 30–60 × 10–20 cm. Inflorescence a raceme of cincinni. Bracts light purple, ovate, ca. 8 mm. Flowers 1 or 2 per cincinnus. Sepals pale purplish green, lanceolate, ca. 1.5 cm. Corolla tube apricot yellow, ca. 1.5 cm; lobes erect, red to apricot yellow with purplish apex, lanceolate, ca. 4 cm. Staminodes 2(or 3), erect, red with apricot yellow base, oblanceolate, 4–5.5 cm × 7–10 mm, 1 with apex emarginate; labellum red, sometimes with yellow spots, lanceolate, ca. 4.5 cm, margin revolute, apex emarginate; fertile stamen with filament reddish apricot yellow, lanceolate, ca. 4.2 cm; anther ca. 9 mm. Ovary green, globose, ca. 6 mm in diam., warty. Style red to apricot yellow, narrow, ca. 6 cm, base adnate to staminode column. Capsule broadly ovoid, 1.2–1.8 cm. Fr. Sep–Oct. $2n = 18$.

Cultivated. Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Hainan, Hunan, Sichuan, Taiwan, Yunnan, Zhejiang [native to tropical America; cultivated throughout the tropics].

Cultivated for its starch and as an ornamental.

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