

8. CATHA Forsskål ex Scopoli, *Intr. Hist. Nat.* 228. 1777.

巧茶属 qiao cha shu

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Shrubs, glabrous. Leaves opposite on mature branches and alternate on juvenile branches, obtusely serrate. Inflorescences axillary, cymose. Flowers bisexual, 5-merous. Disk thin, cupuliform, weakly 5-lobed, intrastaminal; anthers longitudinally dehiscent, introrse. Ovary 3-locular; ovules erect, 2 per locule. Capsule cylindrical, bony, loculicidally dehiscent. Seeds 1–3, with membranous, basal wing.

One species: E Africa, cultivated in N Africa, Arabian peninsula, and tropical Asia.

The leaves contain cathinone, a natural amphetamine, and are commonly chewed for the pharmaceutical effects.

1. *Catha edulis* (Vahl) Endlicher, *Enchir. Bot.* 575. 1841.

巧茶 qiao cha

Celastrus edulis Vahl, *Symb. Bot.* 1: 21. 1790.

Evergreen shrubs, 1–5 m tall; young branches with white, fine lenticels. Petiole 3–8 mm; leaf blade elliptic or narrowly elliptic, 4–7 × 2–4 cm, leathery, base narrowly attenuate, slightly decurrent, margin obtusely serrate, apex obtusely shortly acuminate. Cymes single, small, 1.5–2 × as wide; peduncle 5–10 mm, 2–4-branched, branches short, less than 3 mm; pedicel 1–3 mm, up to 5 mm in fruit. Flowers 3–5 mm in diam.; sepals 5,

triangular-ovate, ca. 1 mm; petals 5, white, narrowly ovate or narrowly oblong. Stamens 5, filamentous, shorter than corolla. Ovary free, surrounded by disk; stigma 3-lobed. Capsule orange-red, cylindrical, ca. 8 × 3–4 mm, dehiscent from above, loculicidally in 3 valves, usually only 1 seed maturing per valve. Seeds black-brown, narrowly ovoid, 3–4 mm, with membranous basal wing.

Cultivated. Guangxi (Nanning), Hainan (Xinglong), S Yunnan (Xishuangbanna) [native to E African mountains].

The name *Catha edulis* was not validly published by Forsskål (*Fl. Aegypt.-Arab.* cvii, 63. 1775); see Art. 46, Ex. 22 of the *Vienna Code*.

Fl. China 11: 479. 2008.