

8. HELLEBORUS Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 557. 1753.

铁筷子属 tie kuai zi shu

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Herbs perennial, rhizomatous. Leaves large, pedately sect or parted. Inflorescence terminal, cymose, 1- to several flowered. Sepals 5, petaloid, white, pink-red, or green, usually persistent. Petals small, tubular or cup-shaped, shortly stalked, apex \pm bilabiate. Stamens numerous; filaments narrowly linear, 1-veined; anthers ellipsoid. Follicles 2–10, leathery, styles persistent. Seeds several per follicle, ellipsoid-globose.

About 20 species: W Asia, China, C and S Europe; one species (endemic) in China.

1. *Helleborus thibetanus* Franchet, Nouv. Arch. Mus. Hist. Nat., sér. 2, 8: 190. 1886.

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Helleborus chinensis Maximowicz; *H. viridis* Linnaeus
var. *thibetanus* (Franchet) Finet & Gagnepain.

Rhizome ca. 4 mm in diam., with dense succulent long fibrous roots. Stems 30–50 cm tall, glabrous, base with 2 or 3 scales, apically branched. Basal leaves 1(or 2), glabrous, long petiolate; petiole 20–24 cm; leaf blade reniform or pentagonal, 7.5–16 \times 14–24 cm, pedately 3-sect; central segment oblanceolate, 1.6–4.5 cm wide, above middle densely serrate; lateral segments shortly stalked, flabellate, unequally 3-sect. Cauline leaves subsessile, smaller than basal ones, central segment narrowly elliptic, lateral ones unequally 2- or 3-parted. Flower 1(or 2), terminal, 3.5–6 cm in diam., glabrous. Sepals pink-red, green at fruiting, elliptic or narrowly elliptic (1.1–) 1.6–3.3 \times (0.5–)1–1.8 cm. Petals 8–10, yellowish green, tubular 5–6 mm, shortly stalked, slightly 2-fid. Stamens (4.5–)7–10 mm; filaments narrowly linear; anthers ellipsoid, 1–1.5 mm. Follicles 2, rarely 3, 1.5–2.8 \times 0.9–1.2 cm, basally fused, beak ca. 6 mm. Seeds ellipsoid, 3–5 \times ca. 3 mm, lustrous. Fl. Apr, fr. May. $2n = 32^*$.

• Forests, in shade of shrubs; 1100–3700 m. S Gansu, NW Hubei, S Shaanxi, NW Sichuan.

