

NELUMBONACEAE

莲科 lian ke

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Herbs perennial, aquatic. Rhizomes branched, repent, forming swollen terminal storage tubers late in growing season. Leaves arising from rhizome, alternate, emersed or floating, long petiolate; leaf blade centrally peltate, veins radially extended. Flowers solitary, axillary, long pedunculate, bisexual, hypogynous, actinomorphic, entomophilous, borne above water surface. Tepals numerous, distinct, outermost reduced, inner ones larger and petaloid. Stamens numerous; anthers dehiscent by longitudinal slits. Pistils numerous, simple, separately and loosely embedded in cavities on flattened top of receptacle. Ovary 1-loculed; ovule 1, pendulous; styles very short; stigmas capitate. Fruit nutlike, indehiscent. Seeds without endosperm and perisperm; embryo large; cotyledons 2, fleshy.

One genus and two species: E and S Asia, N Australia, Central and North America; one species in China.

Kuan Ke-chien. 1979. Nymphaeaceae subfam. Nelumboideae. Fl. Reipubl. Popularis Sin. 27: 3–5.

1. NELUMBO Adanson, Fam. Pl. 2: 76, 582. 1763.

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Nelumbium A. L. Jussieu, orth. var.

Morphological characters and geographical distribution are the same as those of the family.

1. *Nelumbo nucifera* Gaertner, Fruct. Sem. Pl. 1: 73. 1788.

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Nelumbo komarovii Grossheim; *N. nucifera* var. *macrorhizomata* Nakai; *Nelumbium speciosum* Willdenow; *Nymphaea nelumbo* Linnaeus.

Petiole 1–2 m, terete, fistulose, glabrous or papillae hard and scattered; leaf blade abaxially blue-green, orbicular, 25–90 cm in diam., papery, glabrous, glaucous, water-repellent, margin entire. Flowers 10–23 cm in diam.; peduncles longer than petioles, glabrous or sparsely spinulate. Tepals caducous, pink or white, oblong-elliptic to obovate, 5–10 × 3–5 cm. Stamens slightly longer than receptacle; filament slender; anther linear, 1–2 mm; connective appendage clavate, to 7 mm, incurved. Receptacle accrescent, turbinate, 5–10 cm in diam. Fruit oblong to ovoid, 1.0–2.0 × 7–15 cm, glabrous; pericarp thick, hardened. Fl. Jun–Aug. *2n* = 16.

Lakes, ponds, cultivated. Throughout China except Nei Mongol, Qinghai, and Xizang [Bhutan, India, Indonesia (Java), Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Guinea, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia (Far East), Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam; SW Asia, Australia]. This species is cultivated for its edible rhizomes and seeds.

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