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*Maclura tricuspidata*

[Synonyms : *Cudrania tricuspidata*, *Cudrania triloba*, *Cudranus triloba*, *Morus integrifolia*, *Vanieria tricuspidata*, *Vanieria triloba*]

**CHINESE MULBERRY** is a thorny deciduous shrub or tree. Native to China and Korea, it has minute yellowish-green flowers.

It is also known as Che, Chinese che, Chinese silkworm thorn, Cudrang, Cudrania, Mandarin melon berry, Silkworm thorn, and Storehousebush.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

*Tricuspidata* is made up of Latin *tri-* (three) and *cuspidis* (point, spike) components meaning ‘with three short sharp stiff points’ with reference to the leaves.

Locally, particularly in parts of China, the mulberry-like, juicy glossy orange-yellow fruit with their pleasant-taste (which actually store well), are eaten raw or cooked.

Some species of silkworm which enjoy mulberry *Morus nigra* leaves can also be fed on the leaves of Chinese mulberry (especially if there is a shortage of the former).

The wood, which has also been used for making household items, yields a yellow dye.

In the United States chinese mulberry is cultivated as hedging.

Medicinally, local herbalists have used the inner bark for treating malaria, and a wood infusion has been recommended for easing sore throats or some eye problems. The plant has also been used to treat cancer and the root has offered a remedy for some period problems.