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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 as an alternative (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.