

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Zanthoxylum piperitum

[Synonyms : *Fagara piperita*, *Xanthoxylum piperitum*]

CHINESE CHIAO is a deciduous shrub or tree. Native to China it has small greenish flowers. It is also known as Chinese pepper, Japanese pepper, Japanese pepper leaf, Japanese prickly ash, Japanese sansho, *Japanilainen pippuri* (Finnish), Japan pepper, Pepper tree of Japan, Prickly ash, Sansho, Sichuan pepper, Szechuan pepper, and *Szechuanpfeffer* (German).

Piperitum is derived from the genus name *Piper* meaning 'like plants in that (pepper) genus'. The hard wood has been used to make utensils and, not least because of their hardness, pestles. The peppercorn-like seeds are an important condiment and spice in China and Japan. In fact in China they have never been superseded by introduced black pepper (*Piper nigrum*).