

• 中文名稱：洋紫荊

• 英文名稱：Purple Bauhinia , Purple Camel's-foot Tree

• 學名：*Bauhinia purpurea* L.

• 科名：豆科(Leguminosea)羊蹄甲屬(Bauhinia)

洋紫荊，紫花羊蹄甲、羊蹄甲，羊蹄甲(廣州)，玲甲花(植物名實圖考)

- 別名：
- **Hong Kong Orchid Tree / Purple Bauhinia (洋紫荊):** Though "Hong Kong Orchid Tree" is often used for a related hybrid, it is a common alias here.
 - **Purple Bauhinia / Variegated Bauhinia (紫花羊蹄甲):** Highlighting its vibrant purple-to-pink flowers.
 - **Orchid Tree / Mountain Ebony (羊蹄甲):** The most standard common name.
 - **Guangzhou Bauhinia (羊蹄甲 - 廣州):** Its specific regional name in Guangzhou (Canton).
 - **Ling-Jia Flower (玲甲花):** A classical name found in the historical botanical text "*Illustrated Catalogue of Plants*" (植物名實圖考).

印度、斯里蘭卡及中國南部諸省。台灣於 1903 年首度由夏威夷引進，後又多次引進。

- 原產地：
- Native to **India, Sri Lanka, and the Southern provinces of China.**
 - **Introduction to Taiwan:** It was first introduced to Taiwan from **Hawaii in 1903**, with several subsequent introductions following that.

台灣全島各地廣泛種植，尤以中、南部為多，有「南部的杜鵑花」稱謂。

- 分布：
- Widely planted **throughout the entire island of Taiwan.**
 - It is particularly abundant in the **Central and Southern regions** (中、南部).
 - **Nicknamed "The Rhododendron of the South" (南部的杜鵑花):** Because it blooms so vibrantly in spring—similar to how Rhododendrons/Azaleas blanket the north—it earned this beautiful title.

- 用途：
1. 庭園、行道樹的優良樹種：洋紫荊耐旱、速生，種子繁殖容易，實生苗 2 年即可開花，為良好之景觀樹種，花常開於晚秋或早冬。而開花淡粉紅色後變白色者稱粉白羊紫荊

(cv. "Alba")及花藍紫色之紫玲甲(cv. "Violacea") 亦偶可見。

1. Excellent Species for Gardens and Roadside Trees (庭園、行道樹的優良樹種):

- **Resilient & Fast-Growing:** It is **drought-tolerant** (耐旱) and grows very quickly (速生).
- **Easy Propagation:** It is easily grown from **seeds** (種子繁殖容易). Remarkably, a seedling can begin to **bloom in just 2 years** (實生苗 2 年即可開花).
- **Blooming Period:** The flowers typically appear in **late autumn or early winter** (晚秋或早冬).

2. Rare Cultivars & Variations (品種變異): While the standard purple-pink is most common, you may occasionally see these special varieties:

- **White Orchid Tree (粉白羊紫荊 - cv. "Alba"):** Starts as a pale pink and matures into a pure **white** flower.
- **Violet Orchid Tree (紫玲甲 - cv. "Violacea"):** Features deep **blue-purple** (藍紫色) blossoms.

落葉直立中喬木，樹皮灰白，具有多數分枝，樹枝粗壯，枝條斜上昇或略下垂，光滑無毛或略帶有柔毛。

• 莖：

- **Form:** A **deciduous, upright, medium-sized tree** (落葉直立中喬木).
- **Bark:** The bark is **grayish-white** (樹皮灰白).
- **Branching:**
 - It has **numerous branches** (具有多數分枝), and the main branches are **stout and strong** (樹枝粗壯).
 - The branchlets either **ascend obliquely** (斜上昇狀) or **droop slightly** (略下垂).
- **Surface Texture:** The stems are mostly **smooth and hairless** (光滑無毛), though some may have a **faint soft pubescence** (略帶有柔毛/微小細毛).

• 葉：

羊蹄甲屬植物品種繁多，所有品種的葉的葉端均分裂為二，葉脈生於葉底，葉呈闊心形或圓形酷似羊蹄。單葉互生，外形略呈卵圓形或卵狀長橢圓形，7~10 公分長，寬 6~8 公分，先端鈍而 2 裂，裂片常裂至全長的 1/3 至 1/2 處，基部淺心形或略呈截斷狀，硬革質，全緣，9~11 脈，表面光滑，背面稍帶有灰色毛茸；葉柄長 3~3.5 公分，兩端具有關節。

- **Family Trait (家族特徵):** There are numerous species in the *Bauhinia* genus, but they all share a common feature: the **leaf tip is split into two** (葉端均分裂為二). The veins are

prominent on the underside, and the leaf is **broadly heart-shaped or circular**, closely resembling a **goat's hoof** (酷似羊蹄).

- **Arrangement & Shape:** Simple leaves, **alternately arranged** (單葉互生). The overall shape is **ovate-circular** (卵圓形) or ovate-oblong.
- **Size:** Typically **7–10 cm long** and 6–8 cm wide.
- **The "Split" (先端 2 裂):** The tip is obtuse (blunt) and deeply cleft, with the split usually reaching **1/3 to 1/2** of the leaf's total length.
- **Base & Margin:** The base is **shallowly heart-shaped** (淺心形) or nearly truncate (flat). The margins are **entire** (全緣 - smooth).
- **Texture & Surface:**
 - **Leathery (硬革質):** The leaves feel firm and sturdy.
 - **Top Surface:** Smooth and glossy (表面光滑).
 - **Underside:** Slightly covered with **grayish hairs** (背面稍帶有灰色毛茸).
- **Venation:** There are **9–11 primary veins** radiating from the base.
- **Petiole (葉柄):** About 3–3.5 cm long, with **nodes/joints at both ends** (兩端具有關節).

花數枚，頂生或腋生的繖房花序，多先葉開放或與葉同時開放，開放時甚為壯觀；苞片小，三角形，花梗長 0.6~1.2 公分，花萼筒圓錐形，長 0.6~1.2 公分，裂片佛燄苞狀，2 枚，長 2~2.5 公分，花瓣倒披針形，有長爪，紅色，花萼的 2 倍長，完全雄蕊 3~4 枚，子房有灰色柔毛，有長柄，花柱長，柱頭大而歪。

這段關於花 (Flowers) 的描述，揭開了羊蹄甲為何能成為「南部的杜鵑花」的秘密。它的花朵構造非常特殊，尤其是那像「佛燄苞」一樣的花萼與帶爪的花瓣。

• 花：

- **Arrangement (花序):**
 - **Type:** A **corymb** (繖房花序)—flowers are clustered with stalks of different lengths so they form a flat or slightly rounded top.
 - **Position:** Located at the **tips of branches** (terminal) or in the **leaf axils** (axillary).
- **Blooming Timing (開花時機):** Often blooms **before the leaves emerge** (先葉開放) or simultaneously with the leaves. This creates a **magnificent spectacle** (壯觀) as the tree

turns completely pink.

- **Structure:**

- **Bracts:** Small and triangular.
- **Pedice (Flower stalk):** 0.6–1.2 cm long.
- **Calyx (花萼):** The calyx tube is cone-shaped. The lobes are **spathe-like** (佛焰苞狀—like a single wrap-around leaf), splitting into 2 segments, about 2–2.5 cm long.
- **Petals (花瓣):** **Oblanceolate** (倒披針形) with **long claws** (有長爪—the narrow base of the petal). They are **red/pink** and are twice as long as the calyx.
- **Stamens (雄蕊):** It has **3–4 fertile stamens** (完全雄蕊). *Note: This is a key identification feature.*
- **Pistil (雌蕊):** The ovary is covered in **gray soft hairs** (灰色柔毛) and sits on a long stalk. The style is long, and the **stigma is large and oblique/crooked** (柱頭大而歪).

硬革質，扁平，光滑無毛，成熟後開裂，內有種子 12~15 枚。

- **果:**

- **Type:** A **linear pod** (莢果線形)—looks like a very long, flat green bean.
- **Texture:** **Hard and leathery** (硬革質), **flat** (扁平), and **smooth/hairless** (光滑無毛).
- **Dehiscence (開裂):** It **splits open** (開裂) upon reaching maturity to scatter seeds.
- **Seeds:** Contains **12–15 seeds** inside.
- **Dimensions:** The pod is impressively long, measuring **13–30 cm** in length and 2–3 cm in width.

落葉喬木。葉革質，有時心形，長 11~14(有時達 18) 公分，裂片鈍形或有時銳形。繖房花序腋生或頂生，被短毛；花瓣倒披針形，淡紅色，長 4~5 公分，瓣柄有白色條紋；有藥雄蕊 3~4；子房具長柄，莢果線形，長 13~30 公分，寬 2~3 公分。

- **特性:**

- **Tree Form:** A **deciduous tree** (落葉喬木).
- **Foliage Details:**
 - Leaves are **leathery** (革質) and often **heart-shaped** (心形).

- They are relatively large, **11–14 cm long** (sometimes reaching up to 18 cm).
- The leaf lobes (the "toes" of the hoof) can be **obtuse** (blunt) or occasionally **acute** (pointed).

- **Floral Highlights:**

- **Inflorescence:** Axillary or terminal **corymbs** covered in **short hairs** (被短毛).
- **Petals:** **Oblanceolate, pale red/pink** (淡紅色), 4–5 cm long.
- **The Secret Mark:** The **claws/stems of the petals** (瓣柄) feature **white stripes** (白色條紋)—this is a beautiful detail often missed by casual observers!
- **Stamens:** Features **3 to 4 fertile stamens** (有藥雄蕊).
- **Pistil:** The ovary has a **long stalk** (具長柄).