

## *Colubrina asiatica*

Asiatic colubrine,  
latherleaf

### Introduction

The genus *Colubrina* contains approximately 23 species, distributed in South Asia, islands of Oceania, Africa, and Latin America. Two species reportedly occur in Guangdong, Guangxi, Taiwan, and Yunnan provinces of China<sup>[1]</sup>.

### Species of *Colubrina* in China

<i>C. asiatica</i> (L.) Brongn
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<i>C. pubescens</i> Kurz.
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### Taxonomy

**Family:** Rhamnaceae

**Genus:** *Colubrina* Rich. ex Brongn.

### Description

*Colubrina asiatica* is a vine-like glabrescent shrub. Alternate leaves are nearly membranous or thinly papery,



Leaves of *Colubrina asiatica*. (Photo provided by TNC.)

glabrous or nearly so, ovate or broadly ovate in shape, 4-8 cm long and 2-5 cm wide, with two or three raised lateral veins. The leaf margin is crenate, apex acuminate and slightly notched, and base round or subcordate. Cyme inflorescences of yellow flowers appear in the axils from June to September. The calyx is five-lobed; each sepal is ovately-triangular. Petals are obovate-

rounded, hooded, and equal in length to the stamen. Fruits appear from September to December as capsule-like drupes, globose, and 7-9 mm in diameter. A single grayish-brown seed is enclosed in each of three pyrenes<sup>[1]</sup>.

### Habitat and Distribution

*Colubrina asiatica* occurs in forested areas and brush along the coast.

### Economic Importance

No information is available on the economic importance of *C. asiatica* in China.

### Related Species

*Colubrina pubescens* is distinguished from Asiatic colubrine in that the young shoots and veins on the underside of the leaves of *C. pubescens* are coated with hairs. The fruit pedicel (8-12 mm long) is longer than that of *C. asiatica* (4-6 mm long).

### Natural Enemies of *Colubrina*

No microorganisms have been reported. Of the three arthropod species reported, a beetle, *Artimpaza argenteonotata* is probably host-specific to *C. asiatica*.

### Arthropods

Order	Family	Species	H. R.	Ref.
Coleoptera	Cerambycidae	<i>Artimpaza argenteonotata</i> Pic	m	16
		<i>Niphona parallela</i> White	po	16
Hemiptera	Plataspidae	<i>Paracopta duodecimpunctatum</i> (Germar)	p	192

