

# *Lespedeza cuneata*

## Chinese lespedeza, bush clover

### Introduction

Approximately 60 species constitute the genus *Lespedeza*, which occurs from East Asia to Northeast Australia and North America. The members of this genus are tolerant of arid environments, and consequently are often planted to prevent soil erosion. Twenty-six species of the genus have been reported from China<sup>[91]</sup>.



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### Species of *Lespedeza* in China

Scientific Name	Scientific Name
<i>L. bicolor</i> Turcz.	<i>L. forrestii</i> Schindl.
<i>L. buergeri</i> Miq.	<i>L. inschanica</i> (Maxim.) Schindl.
<i>L. caraganae</i> Bunge	<i>L. juncea</i> (L.f.) Pers.
<i>L. chinensis</i> G. Don	<i>L. maximowizii</i> Schneid.
<b><i>L. cuneata</i></b> (Dum.-Cours.) G. Don	<i>L. mucronata</i> Rick.
<i>L. cyrtobotrya</i> Miq.	<i>L. patens</i> Nakai
<i>L. daurica</i> (Laxm.) Schindl.	<i>L. pilosa</i> (Thunb.) Sieb. et Zucc.
<i>L. davidii</i> Franch.	<i>L. potaninii</i> Vass.
<i>L. dunnii</i> Schindl.	<i>L. pubescens</i> Hayata
<i>L. fasciculiflora</i> Franch.	<i>L. tomentosa</i> (Thunb.) Sieb. ex Maxim.
<i>L. floribunda</i> Bunge	<i>L. viatorum</i> Champ. ex Benth.
<i>L. fordii</i> Schindl.	<i>L. virgata</i> (Thunb.) DC.
<i>L. formosa</i> (Vog.) Koehne	<i>L. wilfordii</i> Rick.

Growth habit of *Lespedeza cuneata*. (Photo by James H. Miller, USDA-FS.)

pubescent. The petiole measures less than 10 mm in length. The stipule is rhomboid and persistent. From July to August, racemes emerge from the leaf axil bearing two to four flowers each. The apetalous flowers occur in clusters having two narrow branchlets, above which is the narrowly campanulate calyx, with five lanceolate pubescent lobes. The corolla is light yellow to white; the keel is violet-spotted at the base, and longer than the standard and the wing, both of which are about 7 mm long. The pubescent pod is broadly ovoid or subglobose, 2.5-3.5 mm long and 2.5 mm wide. Fruits appear from September through October<sup>[70][74][91]</sup>.

### Taxonomy

**Family:** Leguminosae  
(Fabaceae)  
**Genus:** *Lespedeza* Michx.

### Description

*Lespedeza cuneata* is an erect or ascending subshrub standing up to 1 meter tall. The stem is covered with white pubescence, angled upwards. Closely spaced trifoliate leaves alternate along the stem. The blade of the leaflet is cuneate or linear cuneate, about 1-3 cm long and 2-5 mm wide; the truncate apex is somewhat retuse with a mucronate tip. The upper surface of the leaf is glabrous or pilose, and the underside is white



**Habitat**

*Lespedeza cuneata* can be found along roadsides, slopes, ridges, streambanks, ravines, and crop field margins at elevations less than 2,500 m<sup>[70][91]</sup>.

**Distribution**

*L. cuneata* occurs in many provinces including Gansu, Guangdong, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Shaanxi, Shandong, Sichuan, Taiwan, Tibet, Yunnan<sup>[91]</sup>, Anhui<sup>[30]</sup>, Fujian<sup>[36]</sup>, Guangxi<sup>[50]</sup>, Guizhou<sup>[99]</sup>, Jiangsu<sup>[81]</sup>, Jiangxi<sup>[84]</sup>, Shanxi<sup>[38]</sup>, and Zhejiang<sup>[153]</sup>.

**Economic Importance**

The roots of the plant are medically useful. Chinese lespedeza can also serve as livestock forage and green manure in some areas<sup>[74]</sup>.

**Related Species**

Shrubby lespedeza, *L. bicolor*, is functionally similar to Chinese lespedeza, and distributed in Heilongjiang, Hebei, Henan, Inner Mongolia, Jilin, Liaoning, Shaanxi, and Shanxi<sup>[91]</sup>.

**Natural Enemies of *Lespedeza***

At least ten fungi and 65 arthropods are associated with some plants of the genus *Lespedeza*, most of which are found associated with shrubby lespedeza, *L. bicolor*. Only three fungi, *Erysiphe glycines* var. *lespedezae*, *Erysiphe beta*, and *Uromyces lespedezae-procumbentis* can infect *L. cuneata*, and none is reported to be host-specific.

**Fungi**

Phylum	Family	Species	H. R.	Ref.
Ascomycota	Erysiphaceae	<i>Erysiphe glycines</i> var. <i>lespedezae</i> (R.Y. Zheng & U. Braun) U. Braun & R.Y. Zheng	o	22
		<i>Erysiphe betae</i> (Vaňha) Weltzien	p	23 <sup>†</sup>
		<i>Microsphaera robiniae</i> F.L. Tai	po	22
	Phyllachoraceae	<i>Phyllachora lespedezae</i> (Schwein.) Sacc.	po	23
	Pleosporaceae	<i>Pleospora lespedezae</i> Miyake	oo	23
Basidiomycota	Pucciniaceae	<i>Uromyces lespedezae-bicoloris</i> Tai & Cheo	oo	23
		<i>Uromyces lespedezae-macrocarpae</i> Liou & Wang	p	23
		<i>Uromyces rugulosus</i> Pat.	po	23
Anamorphic <i>Mycosphaerella</i>		<i>Pseudocercospora latens</i> (Ellis & Everh.) Y.L. Guo & X.J. Liu	po	23 <sup>‡</sup>
			po	110
		<i>Pseudocercospora lespedezaicola</i> Goh & W.H. Hsieh	mo	110

<sup>†</sup> Recorded as *Erysiphe polygoni* DC.

<sup>‡</sup> Recorded as *Cercospora latens* Ell. et Ev.

## Arthropods

Order	Family	Species	H. R.	Ref.
Acariformes	Tetranychidae	<i>Eotetranychus geniculatus</i> Ehara	po	143
		<i>Schizotetranychus leguminosus</i> Ehara	po	143
Coleoptera	Bruchidae	<i>Spermophagus complectus</i> Sharp	po	139
	Chrysomelidae	<i>Cneorane cariosipennis</i> Fairmaire	mo	140
			po	185
		<i>Cneorane violaceipennis</i> Allard	oo	185
			mo	65
			mo	85
			mo	140
			mo	158
			po	158
		<i>Gonioctena fulva</i> (Motschulsky)	po	185
			oo	140
	Curculionidae	<i>Alcidodes trifidus</i> (Pascoe)	po	65
			mo	85
		<i>Alcidodes waltoni</i> (Bohemen)	po	85
		<i>Episomus chinensis</i> Faust	po	158
	<i>Rhynchites plumbeus</i> Roelofs	mo	85	
	Eumolpidae	<i>Cleoporus variabilis</i> (Baly)	po	140
		<i>Cryptocephalus kraatzi</i> Chûjô	mo	139
		<i>Cryptocephalus kulibini</i> Gebler	mo	139
		<i>Cryptocephalus scutemaculatus</i> T'an	po	140
		<i>Labidostomis bipunctata</i> (Mannerheim)	po	85
			po	139
		<i>Labidostomis chinensis</i> (Lefèvre)	po	139
		<i>Microlypesthes aeneus</i> Chen	oo	139
			po	139
		<i>Pachybrachys scriptidorsum</i> Marseul	mo	85
			po	139
		<i>Smaragdina laevicollis</i> (Jacoby)	po	85
			po	139
		<i>Trichochrysea imperialis</i> (Baly)	po	65
	po		85	
	po		139	
Meloidae	<i>Mylabris calida</i> Pallas	po	85	

Hemiptera	Berytidae	<i>Metatropis brevirostris</i> Hsiao	po	193
	Coreiidae	<i>Homoeocerus dilatatus</i> Horvath	po	192
		<i>Megalotomus junceus</i> (Scopoli)	oo	193
		<i>Mictis angusta</i> Hsiao	po	192
	Lygaeidae	<i>Metochus abbreviatus</i> (Scott)	po	193
	Miridae	<i>Ectmetopterus micantulus</i> (Horvath)	mo	132
			mo	193
	Pentatomidae	<i>Carbula obtusangula</i> Reuter	po	65
			po	192
		<i>Cyclopelta parava</i> Distant	po	65
		<i>Homalogonia obtusa</i> (Walker)	po	65
			po	193
		<i>Sepontia variolosa</i> (Walker)	po	65
	<i>Stollia guttiger</i> (Thunberg)	po	192	
	Plataspidae	<i>Coptosoma biguttula</i> Motschulsky	po	192
		<i>Coptosoma nigrella</i> Hsiao	po	193
		<i>Coptosoma notabilis</i> Montandon	po	65
		<i>Megacopta cribraria</i> (Fabricius)	po	192
		<i>Megacopta distanti</i> (Montandon)	po	193
		<i>Megacopta horvathi</i> (Montandon)	po	65
po	85			
Homoptera	Aphididae	<i>Megoura lespedezae</i> (Essig) Kuwana	mo	65
	Coccidae	<i>Coccus elongatus</i> (Signoret)	po	151
	Margarodidae	<i>Icerya purchasi</i> Maskell	po	140
	Membracidae	<i>Jingkara hyalipunctata</i> Chou	po	85
Lepidoptera	Gelechiidae	<i>Recurvaria albidorsella</i> Snellen	mo	141
	Lycaenidae	<i>Celastrina albocaerulea</i> Moore	po	158
		<i>Celastrina argiolus</i> (Linnaeus)	po	158
	Lymantriidae	<i>Cifuna locuples</i> Walker	po	141
	Noctuidae	<i>Chrysorithrum amata</i> Bremer	mo	141
			mo	158
	Notodontidae	<i>Rosama ornate</i> (Oberthür)	oo	1
		<i>Stauropus persimilis</i> Butler	po	1
	Nymphalidae	<i>Neptis hylas</i> (Linnaeus)	po	85 <sup>I</sup>
		<i>Neptis sappho</i> (Pallas)	mo	85 <sup>II</sup>
			oo	158
	Pieridae	<i>Eurema asakii</i> Boisduval	po	158
		<i>Eurema hecabe</i> (Linnaeus)	po	85
			po	158
	<i>Eurema laeta bethesba</i> (Janson)	po	158	
Pyralidae	<i>Endotricha portialis</i> (Walker)	mo	65	
Saturniidae	<i>Caligula boisduvalii fallax</i> Jordan	po	207	
Tortricidae	<i>Archips hemixantha</i> (Meyrick)	po	141	

Thysanoptera	Phlaeothripidae	<i>Haplothrips chinensis</i> Priesner	po	132
		<i>Haplothrips kurdjumovi</i> Karny	po	132
	Thripidae	<i>Hydatothrips proximus</i> Bhatti	po	132
		<i>Megalurothrips distalis</i> (Karny)	po	56
			po	132
		<i>Scolothrips takahashii</i> Priesner	po	65
		<i>Thrips flavidulus</i> Bagnall	po	56
			po	65
<i>Thrips flavus</i> Schrank	po	132		

<sup>i</sup> Recorded as *Neptis hylas emodes* Moore

<sup>ii</sup> Recorded as *Neptis hylas intermedia* Pryer