

MALPIGHIACEAE

Trees, shrubs, or vines; leaves opposite, entire, stipulate, often with jointed petiole, often with 2 glands at base of blade; flowers perfect; sepals 5; petals 5, free, clawed; stamens 10 or less, usually connate basally; ovary superior 2-3(-5)-celled, styles usually free; cells 1-ovulate; ovule pendulous; fruit a schizocarp, or drupaceous or samaroid.—56 genera and about 800 species chiefly of the tropics; represented in Guam only by a few cultivated species, in the following genera:

1. Petals yellow.
2. Climbers.....*Tristellateia*
2. Shrubs.....*Thryallis*
1. Petals white, or pink.....*Malpighia*

THRYALLIS Martius

Shrubs with simple opposite leaves; flowers yellow or reddening in age, in racemose panicles; bracts and bracteoles deciduous; calyx of 5 sepals; petals 5; clawed; stamens 10; filaments slightly connate at base; ovary 3-lobed, styles 3; stigmas minute; capsule 3-lobed.—Tropical-subtropical America, 12 spp.

THRYALLIS GLAUCA (Cav.) O. Kuntze, Rev. Gen. 1: 89. 1891.

Galphimia glauca Cavanilles, Anal. Hist. Nat. 1: 37. 1799.

Merrill 1914: 100.

Small ornamental shrub; youngest stems red, pubescent; older stems gray, glabrate; leaves ovate, acute, cuneate at base, 1.5-5 cm long, with 2 (or 4) lateral glands at base of blade; petiole red, 5-15 mm long; flowers in terminal racemes or panicles; flower nearly 2 cm wide; petals clear bright yellow; stamens 10; styles 3; pedicel red; fruit a 3-lobed capsule; seeds 1 in each lobe, brown.

A native of Central America and Mexico, introduced as a garden plant, and found occasionally in Guam gardens; probably introduced indirectly from Hawaii. Not yet common.

TRISTELLATEIA Thouars

Woody vines with opposite leaves with paired connate stipules; blade with 2 basal glands; inflorescence a terminal raceme; flowers with yellow petals, 10

stamens, 1 style; fruit a star-shaped samara with about 7-8 lobes,—22 species, all of Madagascar except the following and one E. African species.

TRISTELLATEIA AUSTRALASIAE Rich., Voy. Astrolabe, Atlas, Sert. Astrol. Pl. 15, 1833; Bot. 2, Sert. Astrol. 38 [as *australis*] 158, 1834. Fosberg, Micronesica 2(2): 147. 1966.

A woody climber; stems light brown, glabrous, dotted with raised lenticels; leaves 2-7 cm long (rarely to 10-12 cm), glabrous rather pale green, ovate, acute or obtuse, rounded or subcordate and with 2 glands at base; petiole green, 5-20 mm long; flowers in terminal racemes; petals bright yellow, 4 of them very slightly falcate, each about 1 cm long excluding the pinkish-orange 2 mm claw; stamens usually 10 of unequal lengths, yellow turning red; style 1; fruit samaroid, winged, with 5-8 slender flattened lobes each about 1 cm long or a little less.

A native of Malaysia and Australia. I introduced this plant (as seed to Paul Souder (Land Management) in Sept. 1966, expecting it to prove an attractive ornamental, as it has in various other places (including Hawaii). It is found as a native plant in Palau, but apparently never reached the Marianas.

A somewhat similar relative, *Rysopteris cumingiana* A. Jussieu, is native in Truk and Palau. It may quickly be distinguished from the above by its pubescent young branches and free stipules.

MALPIGHIA Linnaeus

Small trees or shrubs with opposite leaves often with stinging hairs; corymbs axillary; flowers red, pink, or white; calyx persistent, with 6-10 glands; petals 5; stamens 10; filaments basally connate; ovary 3-lobed, with distinct styles; fruit a fleshy drupe.—30 or 40 Tropical American species.

1. Leaves less than 4 cm long, spine-toothed marginally.....*M. coccigera*

1. Leaves up to 7-8 cm long, entire, flat.....*M. glabra*

MALPIGHIA COCCIGERA L. Sp. Pl. ed. 2, 426.

SINGAPORE-HOLLY.

Small erect compact shrub with small spines on leaves; blades crisped-wavy, stiff, dark green, 1-3.5 cm long; flowers 1 or 2 in axils; pedicels slender, often longer than leaf; flowers up to 2 cm broad; petals pink, with frilled margins; fruit a small dark red drupe, 2 or 3 parted; seeds crested, 2 or 3.

A West Indian shrub of considerable ornamental interest. It is cultivated in several gardens, as in Barrigada (4948) and in Agaña.

The common name is a misnomer.

MALPIGHIA GLABRA L. Sp. Pl. 425.

ESCOBILLO. BARBADOS CHERRY.

A medium erect open shrub; leaves smooth, glabrous, plane, entire, ovate, mostly 3-7.5 cm long; flowers in clusters of 3-8, about 1.3 cm broad; petals pink or white; fruit a small red drupe with thin acid pulp around the 3 somewhat squarish seeds.

A native of Florida, the Caribbean Islands, and Venezuela. Evidently introduced for the edible fruits; it is rare. I have seen it only in Yoña on the Leon Guerrero farm (5062).

According to Pal (Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 60, B, 347-350, 1964) the chromosome number is $n = 20$.