

MATAYBA APETALA (SAPINDACEAE) NEW FOR THE FLORA OF PANAMA

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Since completion of the Sapindaceae in the Flora of Panama (Croat, 1976), a species of Matayba, M. apetala (Macfad.) Radlk. has been collected in the Canal Zone. This species is otherwise known only from the West Indies (Greater Antilles) and Central America north of Guatemala. It has been collected in Belize and as far north as the state of Veracruz in Mexico. The Panama locality is noteworthy in being somewhat disjunct and even more noteworthy is the fact that the species was collected in the Canal Zone in an area that has in general been well collected. It was first discovered there by Gene Sullivan, who was making his first collecting trip in the tropics. Since the species was not treated in the Flora of Panama, a complete description follows:

Matayba apetala (Macfad.) Radlk., Sitzungsber. Math.-Phys. Cl. Königl. Bayer. Akad. Wiss. München 9:535. 1879.

Cupania apetala Macfad., Fl. Jam. 1:162. n. 2. 1837.  
TYPE: Jamaica (not seen).

C. oppositifolia A. Rich., Fl. Cub., in Ramon de la Sagra, Hist. etc de Cuba I. 292. tab. 32. 1845. TYPE: Cuba, Guanaba, in Vuelta de Abajo (not seen).

C. mexicana Turcz., Bull. Mosc. 31(1):405. 1858. TYPE: Mexico, Veracruz, near Mirador, 3,000 ft. Linden 734 (not seen).

Ratonia apetala Griseb. non Wright, Fl. Brit. W. Ind. Isl. 126. 1864. TYPE: Same as Cupania oppositifolia A. Rich.

Matayba mexicana (Turcz.) Radlk., Sitz. Bayer. Akad. 9:536. n. 482. 1879.

M. oppositifolia (A. Rich.) Britton, Scient. Surv. Porto Rico V:4(1924) 528.

M. apetala f. oppositifolia Radlk. in Urb., Symb. Antill. I 354. 1899. TYPE: Same as Cupania oppositifolia A. Rich.



Cupania verapazensis Lundell, Wrightia 5:2. 1972. TYPE:  
Guatemala, Baja Verapaz, Unión Barrios, Contreras 11333  
(LL, holotype).

Matayba verapazensis (Lundell) Lundell, Phytologia 34:370.  
1976.

Trees (5-)10-23 m high, 9-50 cm dbh; branchlets densely ferruginous with short, minute, appressed trichomes, becoming glabrous in age. Leaves parapinnate, opposite or subopposite, 8-25 cm long; petioles subterete, weakly flattened and margined adaxially, 2-5.5 cm long; rachis margined; leaflets 4-17, oblong-elliptic, to oblanceolate, usually acuminate with a bluntly rounded tip, sometimes obtuse, acute or narrowly rounded at the apex, narrowly acute to attenuate and often unequal at the base, (3-)6-12 cm long, 1-3.5 cm wide, subcoriaceous, glabrous on the upper surface, the midrib raised, the reticulate veins often prominulous, glabrous or sparsely appressed-pubescent below, later glabrous, often glandular dotted, sometimes subpapillose, the primary lateral veins 7-12, scarcely more prominent than the lesser veins, spreading at a 45-60° angle and joining a collective vein near the margin, the leaf axils usually with a few foveolate domatia, the margin entire, revolute. Inflorescence terminal and upper axillary, the flowers in slender racemiform panicles 4-20 cm long, as long as or longer than the subtending leaves; rachis densely ferruginous, appressed-pubescent; bracts deltoid, minute; peduncles usually 2-4 mm long; pedicels slender, 1.5-3 mm long; peduncles pedicel and calyces densely appressed-pubescent. Flowers with the calyx lobes ovate to elliptic to broadly ovate, acute to obtuse at the apex, 7-10 mm long; petals greenish yellow, yellow-green, or greenish, rudimentary or to 1 mm long, obovate, emarginate at the apex, clawed at the base, puberulent; disc puberulent; stamens 8, filiform, glabrous to sparsely puberulent in the lower 2/3, 2-3 mm long, the anthers ovoid, basifixed, glabrous, 0.5 mm long; ovary pubescent. Capsules distinctly stalked, reddish, 10-12(-20) mm long, sparsely appressed-pubescent when young, glabrescent, the stalk usually 3-4 mm long; seeds ellipsoidal, shiny black, 6-10 mm long, the aril fleshy, light orange, extending to the lower 1/3 of the seed.

Matayba apetala ranges from Mexico (Veracruz) and Belize to Honduras on the Atlantic slope at low elevations. The species also occurs in the Greater Antilles and in Panama, where it was collected only in premontane wet forest in the Canal Zone. It is to be expected on the Atlantic slope of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. It is distinguished from other



Central American species by its smaller, often more numerous leaflets, and the frequent presence of axillary domatia on the lower blade surface.

Panamanian collections examined: CANAL ZONE: Naval Pipeline Road N of Gamboa, from entrance to 5 km from gate, Sullivan 104 (MO). 6 km from gate Croat 37030 (AAU, C, CAS, CR, COL, DUKE, F, GH, K, LL, MEXU, MISSA, MO, NY, P, PMA, RSA, S, U, UC, VEN).

A new key to the Panamanian species of *Matayba* is provided.

- a. Leaflets often foveolate in the axils beneath (with a distinct pit); leaflets usually more than 3 pairs or with the margin serrate.
  - b. Leaflets with the margin serrate, usually in less than 3 pairs . . . . .*M. scrobiculata* (HBK) Radlk.
  - bb. Leaflets with the margin entire, usually in more than 3 pairs . . . . .*M. apetala* (Macfad.) Radlk.
- aa. Leaflets with the axils beneath glabrous or barbate, not foveolate; leaflet margins entire.
  - c. Leaflets 2 . . . . .*M. kennedyi* Croat
  - cc. Leaflets usually 4 or more (2 or 4 pairs).
    - d. Lower surface of the leaflets with the vein axils barbate; petiolules and leaf rachis glabrous or inconspicuously tomentose; disc of the flower tomentose; capsules glabrous outside . . . . .*M. glaberrima* Radlk.
    - dd. Lower surface of the leaflets with the axils glabrous; petiolules and leaf rachises with coarse, long, brownish trichomes, disc of the flowers glabrate; capsules densely brown-tomentose outside . . .*M. ingaefolia* Standley

#### LITERATURE CITED:

- Croat, T. B. 1976. Sapindaceae in Woodson & Schery, Flora of Panama. Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 63:393-540.



Croat, Thomas B. 1979. "Matayba apetala (Sapindaceae) new for the flora of Panama." *Phytologia* 44, 381–383.

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