

# *Ocotea morae* (Lauraceae): A New Species from Costa Rica

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**ABSTRACT.** A new large-fruited species of Lauraceae is described and illustrated here. *Ocotea morae* is found on the Cordillera de Tilarán, Costa Rica.

**RESUMEN.** Una especie nueva de Lauraceae de frutos muy grandes se describe y se ilustra en este artículo. *Ocotea morae* se encuentra en las faldas de la Cordillera de Tilarán, Costa Rica.

The Reserva Biológica Alberto M. Brenes (formerly Reserva Forestal de San Ramón) is a 7800-hectare field station managed by the University of Costa Rica. The station is located near the San Lorenzo River on the wet Caribbean slope of the Fila Volcán Muerto, Cordillera de Tilarán, province of Alajuela, 10°13'N, 84°37'W, at 850 m elevation. The average annual rainfall is about 3500 mm. The elevation varies from about 600 m on the north-eastern edge of the property to 1520 m in the Cerro Jabonal. During fieldwork in this preserved forest I collected a remarkable new species of the genus *Ocotea* Aublet (Lauraceae).

***Ocotea morae* Gómez-Laurito, sp. nov.** TYPE: Costa Rica. Alajuela: San Ramón, Reserva Biológica Alberto M. Brenes, 10°13'N, 84°37'W, 800–850 m, 27 Aug. 1995 (fl, fr), J. Gómez-Laurito & V. Mora 12817 (holotype, USJ; isotypes, CR, F, MO). Figure 1.

*Ocotea dendrodaphne* et affinis similis, sed trunco usque ad 22 m alto et 80 cm diametro, cupula magna, 15–20 mm profunda, 45–65 mm lata, conspicue (usque 15 mm) marginata; bacca 53–58 mm longa et 42–60 mm lata a speciebus satis notis bene distincta.

Trees 18–22 m tall, 60–80 cm DBH, trunk straight, terete with medium-sized buttresses; bark grayish, lenticellate; inner bark yellowish, hard. Leafy branchlets minutely appressed pubescent to glabrescent, solid, but sometimes the distal stems hollow (no ants have been seen). Leaves alternate; petioles 12–20 mm long, sulcate above; lamina 18–24 × 5–8 cm, oblong-elliptic, tapering to a short-acuminate apex, obtuse at the base and slightly decurrent on the petiole, the margin entire and revolute at the base, drying

chartaceous and grayish green, glabrous and slightly lustrous on both surfaces, with 14–20 pairs of major secondary veins, tertiary venation reticulate and very slightly raised beneath. Inflorescence solitary and axillary to distal leaves or leafless nodes near the shoot tip, panicles 2–5 cm long, compact, with very short lateral branches and several crowded flowers. Flowers white, 6–10 mm long; 6 tepals 3–5 × 3 mm, externally densely pubescent, internally pubescent with brownish to ferruginous curly hairs, papillose; 9 fertile stamens with the cells arranged in 2 pairs, 6 outer with a sterile apical tip, 3 inner with the cells lateral-introrse, subsessile, thick, fleshy, smooth, with curly hairs at the base of the filaments; glands sessile at the base of the inner filaments. Ovary ovoid, glabrous. Style 1 mm long, capitate. Cupule cup-shaped, 15–10 mm deep, 45–65 mm broad, with a conspicuously wide-flaring (to 15 mm) outer margin, lenticellate. Berry ellipsoid to subglobose, 53–58 × 42–60 mm, green.

It is my pleasure to name this species for Victor Mora, a long-time friend and resident biologist of the reserve, for his courage and devoted care in the preservation and study of this rich forest.

The subgenus *Dendrophne* can be separated from the subgenus *Ocotea* by its 6 outer stamens with an apical sterile tip, the papillose anthers, and double-margined cupule. Sterile collections of *O. morae* are similar to those of *O. dendrodaphne* Mez; the latter, however, is a shrub or small treelet with fruit cups 8–10 mm long, ca. 15 mm broad, and 3–7 mm deep, and berries 15–25 mm long and 10–12 mm thick (Burger & van der Werff, 1990). *O. morae*, on the other hand, is a large tree to 22 m tall and the aspect of fruiting collections of this new species is quite unlike other *Ocotea* species in Costa Rica. It can be readily recognized by its large cupule to 65 mm broad, and fruit to 58 mm long and 60 mm wide. *Ocotea morae* is at present only known from the type locality.

**Paratypes.** COSTA RICA. **Alajuela:** same locality as type: 30 July 1992 (fl), J. Gómez-Laurito et al. 12274 (CR,



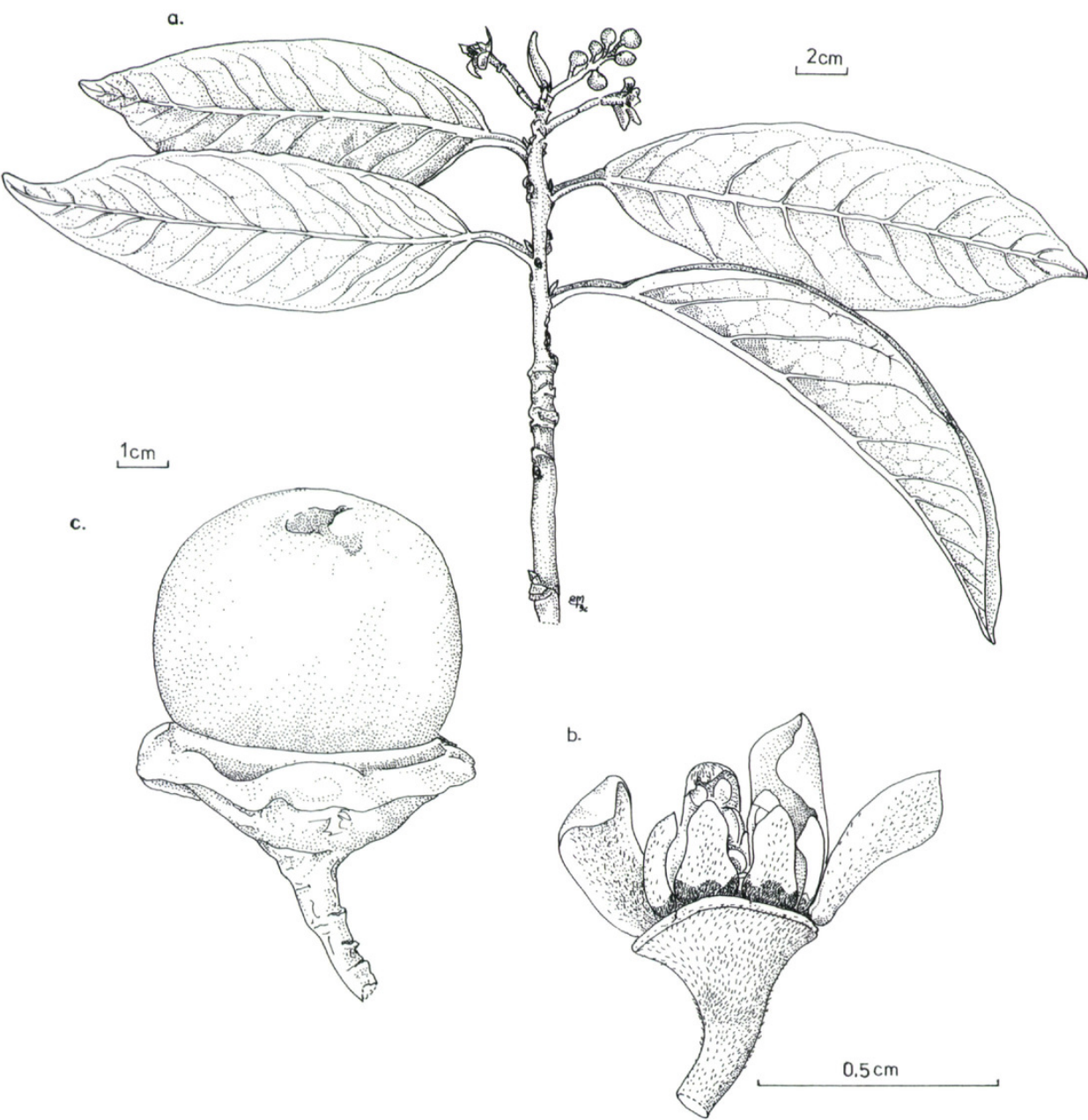


Figure 1. *Ocotea morae* Gómez-Laurito (Gómez-Laurito & V. Mora 12817). —a. Habit. —b. Flower with some tepals removed. —c. Fruit.

F, MO, USJ), 27 Aug. 1994 (fr), J. Gómez-Laurito et al. 12676 (USJ).

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