

## 106. COCHLOSPERMACEAE

Trees or shrubs, often deciduous. Leaves palmatilobed; stipules caducous. Flowers actinomorphic, bisexual, showy, mostly yellow, paniculate or racemose; sepals 5, imbricate; petals 5, imbricate, emarginate; stamens numerous; ovaries 1-celled or perfectly or imperfectly 3-celled (5-celled in *C. regium*), upper portion remaining 1-celled; ovules numerous. Capsules 3- to 5-valved; seeds covered with woolly hairs.

Genera 3, species 15; in tropical and subtropical America, tropical Africa and southeastern Asia; 1 genus and 1 species in the Philippines,

1. COCHLOSPERMUM Humboldt, Bonpland & Kunth, *nom. cons.*

Trees or erect shrubs, deciduous before flowering (in ours), often with colored juice. Leaves spirally arranged, palmately. Flowers terminal or subterminal in racemes, corymbs or panicles, bisexual, actinomorphic, yellow (in ours); sepals free, persistent or caducous; petals 5, free, imbricate or contorted; stamens equal or unequal; filaments free, anthers basifixed, linear, 2-celled, dehiscing by confluent pore-like slits; ovaries 1-celled or lower half incompletely 3- to 5-celled. Capsules loculicidal. 1-celled, 3- to 5-valved; seeds numerous, covered by woolly hairs.

Species 10, in tropics of the world.

1. *Cochlospermum regium* (Mart. & Schrank) Pilg., Notizbl. 8: 716, 1924; van Steenis, Fl. Mal. I, 4: 61, 1949. – *Maximiliana regia* Mart. & Schrank, Flora 2: 452. 1819. – *Cochlospermum vitifolium* Spreng., Syst. Veg. 2: 596, 1825 Figure 136

Trees small, 3-10 m high, with often reddish brown branchlets. Leaves orbicular, 15-30 cm wide, incised to 2/3-3/4, 5-lobed, glabrous, crenate-serrate, acuminate with cordate base; domatia present in basal axils of main ribs at tufts of hairs. Flowers in dense panicles at ends of leafless twigs, pedicellate, bright yellow; stamens red in lower half; sepals tomentose, persistent; petals 4-6 cm long; ovaries pubescent. Capsules 5-valvate, obovoid, finely velvety-pubescent.

Recently introduced in the Philippines; rare and only in cultivation.

Com. name – Buttercup tree (Engl.).

Exsicc. – *Pancho CA 20343\** (CAHP).



Figure 136. *Cochlospermum regium*: 1. branch tip; 2. flowering branch; 3. pistil; 4. ovary, vertical section; 5. ovary, cross section; 6. stamen; 7. fruit, unopened; 8. fruit, opened; 9. seed.