

## 107. CARICACEAE

Trees small, soft-wooded, often dioecious or monoecious; milky latex present in all parts. Leaves large, usually clustered at branch tips, variously lobed and divided, glabrous or rarely hairy, long-petioled, estipulate. Inflorescences axillary, rarely cauliflorous; flowers pentamerous, regular; calyx gamosepalous, 5-lobed. Staminate flowers gamopetalous, lobes valvate or contorted; stamens 10, biseriate, inserted on corolla; filaments free or connate. Pistillate flowers with free petals; ovaries superior, sessile, 1- or 5-locular, with parietal placentation; styles short or absent; stigmas 5, sessile, simple; ovules numerous. Fruits fleshy berries with numerous seeds, seeds with soft succulent outer testa and hard inner testa.

Genera 4, species 40, in tropical and subtropical America; 1 genus and 1 species in the Philippines.

1. *CARICA* Linnaeus

Trees with milky sap dioecious, erect, normally unbranched. Leaves long-petioled, large, palmately 7- or 9-lobed. Staminate flowers in axillary, narrow, pendulous, elongate panicles, corolla salver-shaped, tube slender, cylindrical, lobes 5, convolute or valvate. Pistillate flowers large, axillary; ovaries 1-celled; stigmas 5-lobed; ovules in 2 or many series on parietal placenta. Fruits fleshy; seeds enclosed in gelatinous covering, testa variously roughened.

Species 25, tropical and subtropical America.

1. *Carica papaya* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 1036, 1753; Merr., En. Philip. 3: 118, 1923.

**Figure 137**

Trees erect, small, 3-6 m high, unbranched or when injured becoming branched, trunk marked with large petiole scars. Leaves suborbicular, 1 m broad or less, palmately 7- or 9-lobed, each lobe pinnately incised or lobed; petioles stout, hollow, 1 m or more long. Staminate flowers in crowded clusters, fragrant, corolla tube slender, 2 cm long; pistillate flowers in short axillary spikes or racemes; petals 5 cm long or less. Fruits subglobose, obovoid or oblong-cylindrical, 5-30 cm long, orange-yellow when mature, fleshy.

Tropical America, now pantropic. Cultivated throughout the Philippines; frequently spontaneous.

Com. name - *Papaya* (Sp.).

Exsicc. - *Gates CA 1926\** (CAHP).

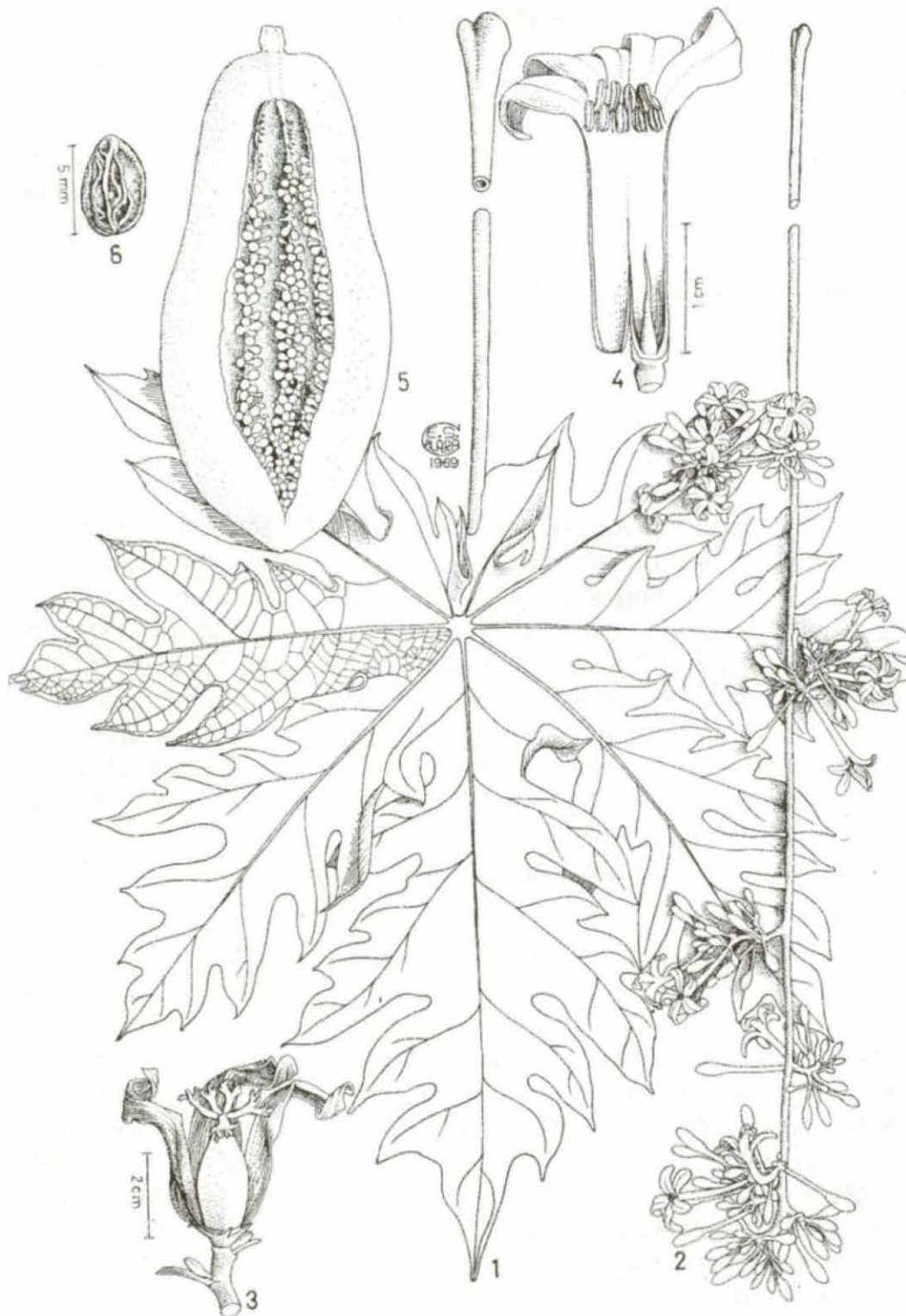


Figure 137. *Carica papaya*: 1. leaf; 2. staminate inflorescence; 3. pistillate flower, 4. staminate flower, opened; 5. fruit, vertical section, 6. seed.