

## 108. DATISCEAE

Trees dioecious or tall herbs. Leaves large, petioled, simple or pinnate, spirally arranged, entire or unequally pinnatifid, estipulate. Flowers small, unisexual, rarely bisexual, fascicled, racemed or paniculate from leaf axils; calyx of staminate short, tubular, 3- to 9-lobed, petals wanting or 8; stamens isomerous and episealous, 4-25; calyx tube adnate to ovary with 3-9 short lobes; ovaries 1-celled, open or closed at vertex; styles lateral, simple or 2-parted, free or alternating placentae; ovules numerous, ascending or horizontal with 2 integuments. Capsules coriaceous, dehiscent at vertex between styles; seeds numerous, small.

Genera 3, species 4; all in tropical Asia except 1 in west Central America; 1 genus and 1 species in the Philippines.

## 1. OCTOMELES Miquel

Trees buttressed. Leaves thinly coriaceous, ovate, entire, 3- to 9-veined, somewhat scaly beneath when young, terminally clustered; petioles long, 5-angled. Flowers upon long, axillary spikes, usually minutely scurfy, sessile, subtended by subulate bracts; calyx tube of staminate hollow, rounded or campanulate, scurfy with 6-8 short, triangular lobes; petals alternating calyx appendages, twice as long; filaments elongated, compressed, subulate; anthers large, linear but strongly recurved; calyx of pistillate fusiform without petal or staminode; ovaries embedded in calyx with 5-8 lateral placentae; styles as many. Outer portion of fruit irregularly separating, inner or hairy part 6- to 8-valved; seeds numerous, minute.

Monotypic. Melanesia and Malesia (except Java and the Lesser Sunda Islands).

1. *Octomeles sumatrana* Miq., Fl. Ind. Bat. Suppl. 133, 336. 1861; van Steenis, Fl. Mal. I, 4: 383, t. 1, 3, 1953. Figure 138

Trees. Leaves alternately crowded at ends of minutely scurfy branchlets, 20-30 x 6-20 cm, 5-veined from base, midvein with few pairs of lateral nerves, lower side grayish, tessellate with minute brown scales, short and bluntly pointed, base cordately ovate; pedicels 10-30 cm long, angularly ridged, lepidote. Spikes yellowish green, subterminal or axillary, pendulous, exceeding foliage; calyx of staminate flowers thick, campanulate, short-toothed; petals lance-shaped; stamens much-exserted; anthers geniculately curved; calyx of pistillate flowers jug-shaped, irregularly splitting when in fruit; styles adnate, one-sided to calyx, free short portions with thick, peltate stigma. Bony endocarp of fruits persistent dehiscent from apex toward base into 6-8 parts.

Throughout the Philippines, in primary forests at low altitudes; in Mt. Makiling, Luzon, in the vicinity of College of Forestry and Natural Resources campus.



Figure 138. *Octomeles sumatrana*: 1. habit; 2. flowering twig; 3. ovary, vertical section; 4. ovary, cross section.