

116 LECYTHIDACEAE

Trees or shrubs. Leaves simple, alternate, not gland-dotted but sometimes with large glands on margins; stipules very rarely present. Flowers rather large and showy, actinomorphic or zygomorphic, bisexual; calyx 4- to 6-lobed; lobes valvate or slightly imbricate; petals 4-6, free; stamens numerous, in several series, either monadelphous and equally arranged all around disk and all bearing fertile anthers or more often diadelphous and united into two separate, very unequal bundles, one much larger than other and ligulate and mostly curved and forming a hood over gynoecium, all fertile in both bundles or those of ligulate bundle mostly all sterile or partly so; anthers basifixed, opening at side by a slit; ovaries inferior or semi-inferior, 2- or more-locular; ovules 1 to many on axile placentae sometimes toward apex of loculi; styles mostly simple. Fruits woody, fibrous or fleshy, indehiscent or operculate at top; seeds without endosperm

Genera 16, species 200; mostly in tropical America; 2 genera and species in the Philippines

1. COUROUPITA Aublet

Trees. Leaves crowded at apices of branches, entire or shallowly crenate. Flowers cauliflorous along trunk or thick branches in racemiform inflorescences; calyx turbinate; petals 6, unequal; disk with numerous stamens developed into broad, fleshy lobe overarching ovary; stamens unequal, all fertile; ovaries part inferior, 5- to 7-celled, cells with numerous ovules; styles short with 6-radiate stigma; fruits globose, large, with hard pericarp, indehiscent, many-seeded.

Species 9, in tropical South America and the West Indies; 1 species in the Philippines.

1. *Couroupita guineensis* Aubl., Pl. Gui. 2: 708. t. 282, 1775. **Figure 150**

Leaves oblong-obovate, base acute, apex acute, obtuse or shortly acuminate, 10-25 x 3-10 cm; petioles 1-2 cm long. Flowers cauliflorous; racemes numerous, obliquely drooping; rachis woody with caducous scales at base; pedicels 2.5-3.5 cm long; petals obovate, broadly rounded, convex, red with yellow base outside, 4.5-7 x 3.5-5 cm; disk pale; filaments inserted on apex of disk lobe, 6-12 mm long. Fruits 15-20 cm in diameter with very distant calyx lobes near middle.

Native of French Guyana. In Mt. Makiling, Luzon, cultivated on the College of Forestry and Natural Resources campus as an ornamental tree.

Com. name – Cannon-ball tree (Engl.).

Exsicc. – *Hernaez CA 17960**, 17961 (CAHP).

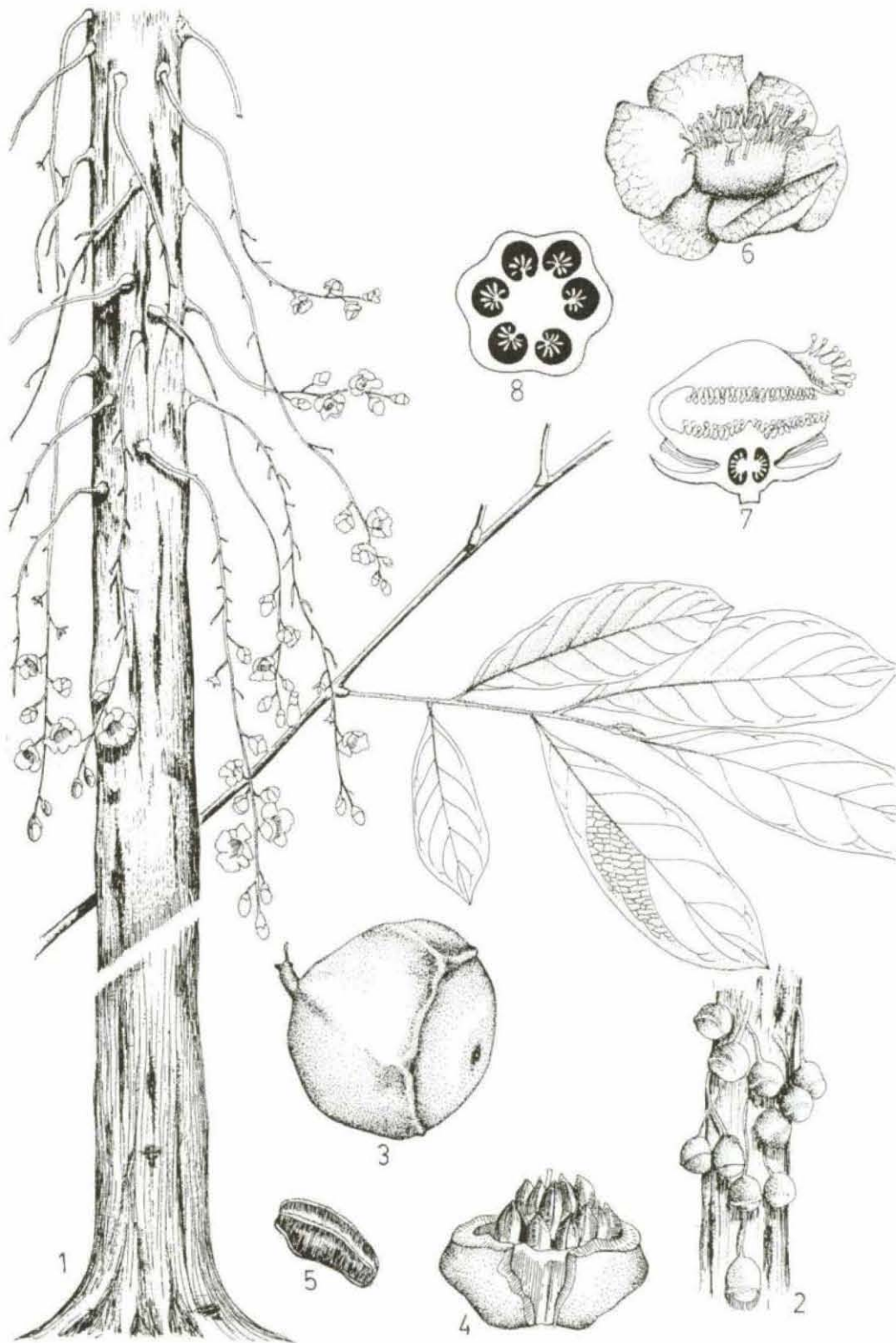


Figure 150. *Couroupita guineensis*: 1. trunk with cauliflorous flowers; 2. portion of trunk with fruits; 3. fruit; 4. fruit, opened; 5. seed; 6. flower; 7. flower, vertical section; 8. ovary, cross section.