

## 70. GERANIACEAE

Annual or perennial herbs, sometimes shrubs. Leaves opposite or alternate, simple or compound, stipulate. Flowers bisexual, mostly regular; sepals 5, distinct; petals typically 5, hypogynous or nearly so, usually imbricate; stamens 5 or two or three times number of petals, some sterile; filaments more or less connate at base; pistil single, 3- to 5-celled, placentation axile; styles as many as ovary cells; ovules 1-2 in each cell. Fruits dry, 1-seeded in each carpel, valves dehiscent from base and joined by styles.

Genera 11, species 650, chiefly in temperate and subtropical regions; 2 genera and 5 to 6 species in the Philippines.

## 1. PELARGONIUM L' Heritier ex W. Aiton

Mostly succulent herbs. Leaves mostly opposite, digitately or pinnately veined, lobed or dissected, often strong-smelling. Flowers of various colors; calyx with nectar-spur joined to pedicel for much of its length; sepals and petals usually 5, two outer petals larger and prominently colored; stamens 10, connate at base, some without anthers. Fruits with 5 valves which coil at dehiscence.

Species 230, mostly in South Africa, 1 species and 2 to 3 cultivars in the Philippines.

1. *Pelargonium graveolens* L' Her. ex Ait., Hort. Kew 423, 1739; Geran. t. 17, 1930; Moore, Bailey 3: 88, 1955. Figure 40

Bushy, 60-90 cm tall. Stems becoming woody, grayish green, hairy-pubescent. Leaves fragrant when crushed, broadly cordate-ovate to circular, with 5-7 lobes closed together extending nearly to base, lobes again lobed into flat divisions, margins variously dentate; petioles long. Flowers small, in dense umbels on short peduncles among leaves; corolla 1.25 cm long, pinkish with purple veins.

Native of South Africa. Cultivated extensively as a pot-plant in the Philippines but it rarely flowers.

Com. name – *Malvarosa* (Sp.).

Exsicc. – *Pancho* CA 39661\*, 39475 (CAHP).

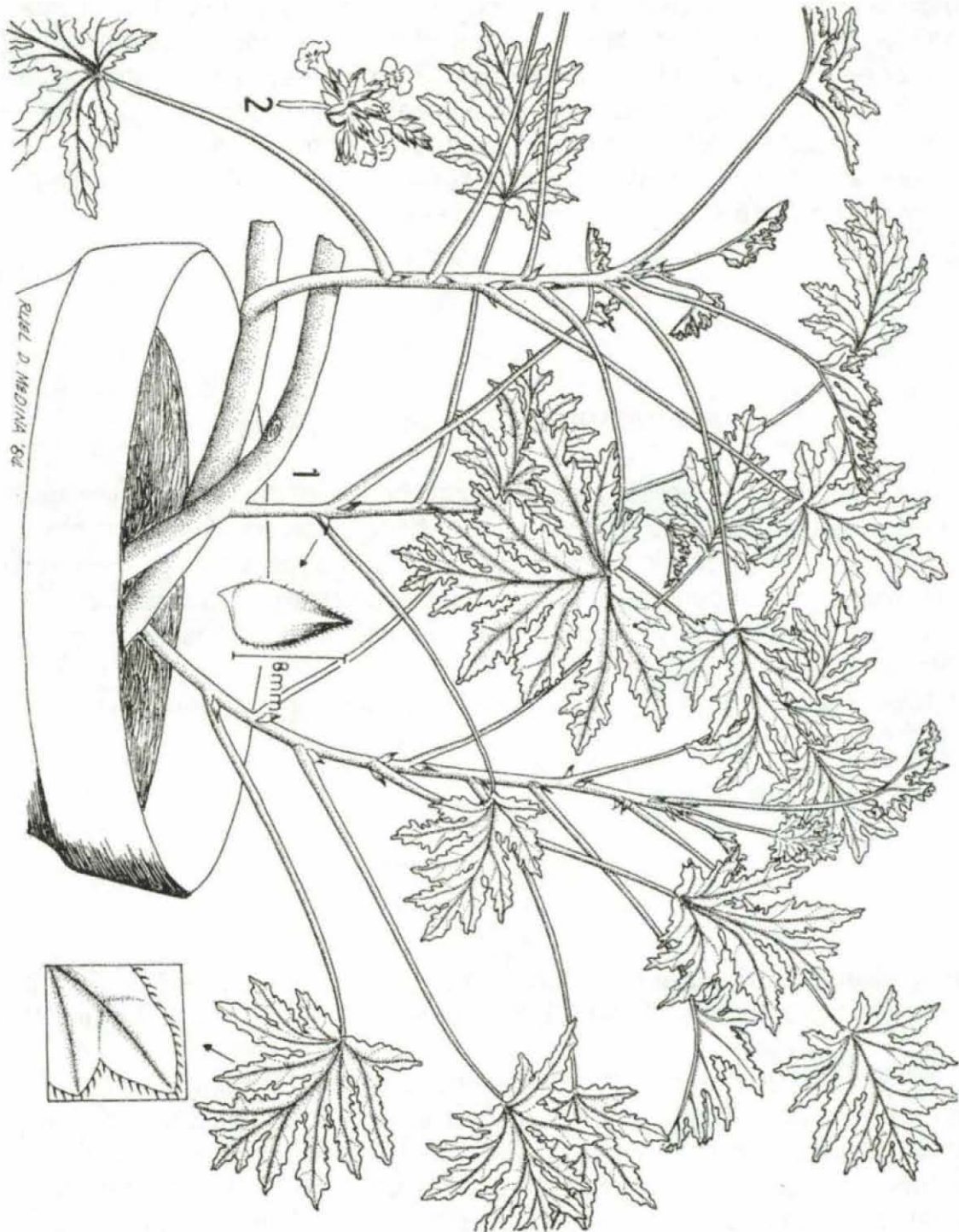


Figure 40. *Pelargonium graveolens*: 1. habit, 2. flower.