

71. ZYGOPHYLLACEAE

Herbs prostrate, hairy. Leaves opposite, abruptly pinnate, stipulate. Peduncles axillary, solitary, 1-flowered; flowers perfect, regular, rather showy, yellow; sepals 5, imbricate deciduous; petals 5, spreading, imbricate; disc annular, 10-lobed; stamens 10, inserted at base of disc, 5 longer ones opposite petals, 5 shorter ones with basal scales; ovaries sessile, lobed, usually with 4-5 carpels. Fruits with several spinous, indehiscent cocci; seeds obliquely pendulous.

Genera 26, species more than 200, chiefly tropical and subtropical; 1 genus and 1 species in the Philippines.

1. **TRIBULUS** Linnaeus

Annual or perennial herbs, prostrate, ascending or erect with long tap roots. Leaves equally pinnate, those of same pair usually different in size; stipules well developed. Flowers pseudo-axillary, solitary or in several-flowered dichasia or cymes, yellow or white; sepals 5, free, persistent; petals 5, imbricate, during anthesis widely patent, caducous; stamens 10, 5 episepalous ones occasionally sterile; ovaries 5-celled, appressed-pubescent; style 1; stigmas 5. Fruits 5-lobed or 5- to 12-winged; cocci 5 or less, spinose, winged or warty.

Species 20, in the tropics and subtropics of both hemispheres; 1 in the Philippines.

1. *Tribulus cistoides* L., Sp. Pl. 387, 1753; van Steenis, Fl. Mal. I. 4: 64, 1949. **Figure 41**

Perennial. Stems up to 1 m long. Leaves 4-6 cm long; leaflets 6 pairs, oblong or oblong-lanceolate, apiculate, 0.7-1.5 cm long, gray-pubescent beneath; peduncles 2-4 cm long; flower 3 cm in diameter. Fruits subglobose, 1 cm in diameter, hairy, each coccus with about 2 stout, sharp spines.

Pantropic. In the Philippines, cultivated in wastelands near the seashore; introduced in the University campus, Los Baños, Laguna, Luzon.

Com. name – Punctured vine (Engl.).

Exsicc. – *Pancho* CA 20049, 20077* (CAHP).

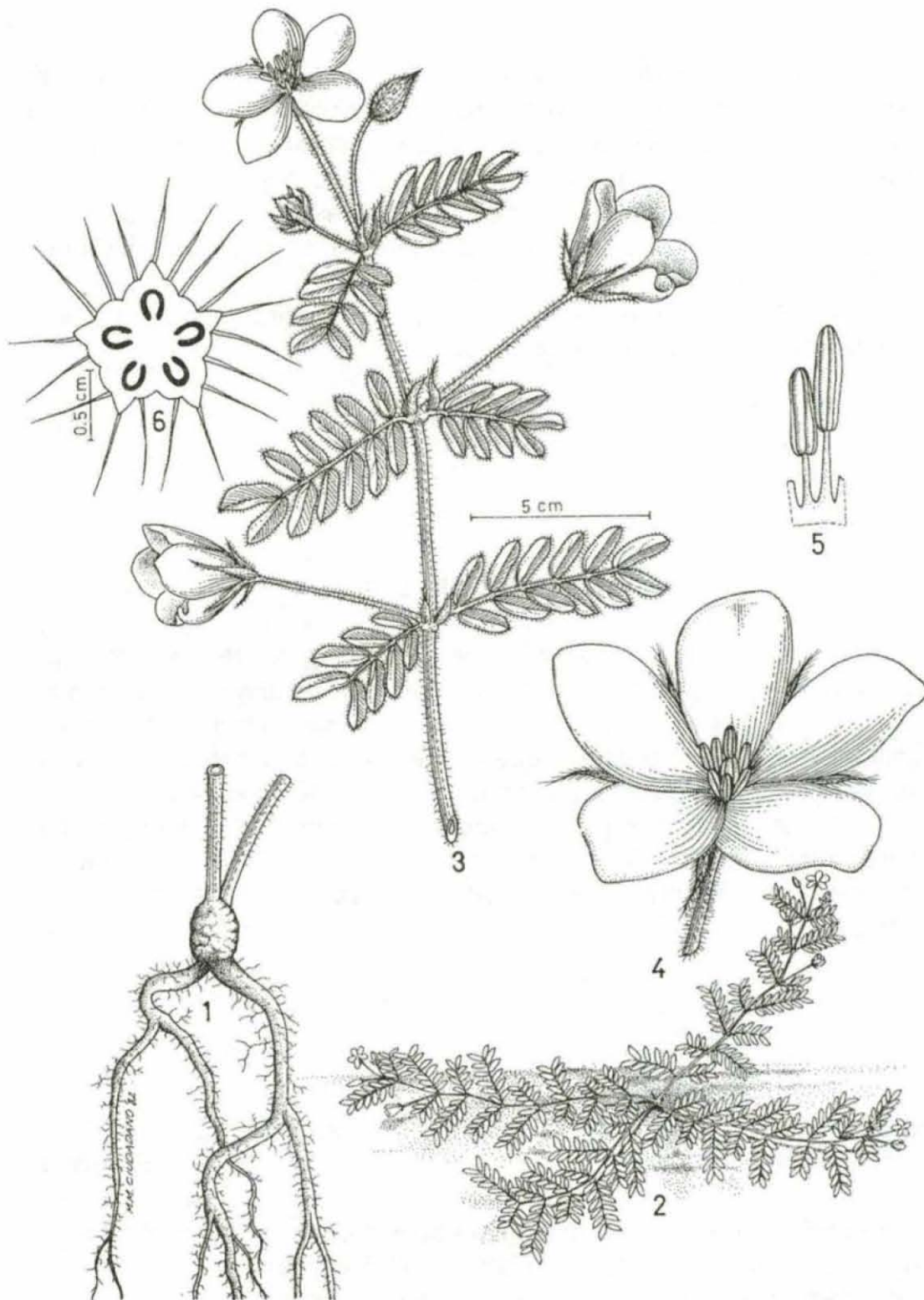


Figure 41. *Tribulus cistoides*: 1. root system; 2. habit; 3. flowering branch; 4. flower; 5. stamens; 6. ovary, cross section. (After Pancho, *Kalikasan*, Philipp. J. Biol. 12, 1983; with permission).