

72. ERYTHROXYLACEAE

Shrubs or small trees glabrous, slender. Leaves alternate, entire, involute in bud; stipules solitary, intrapetiolar. Flowers axillary, solitary or fascicled, 5-merous, perfect; calyx persistent, 5-lobed; petals 5, free, clawed, ligulate inside at base; stamens 10 in 2 whorls of 5; filaments connate into a shallow cup; ovaries superior, 3-celled, 2 cells usually sterile, third with 1 ovule; styles 3, free or connate. Fruits drupaceous. the pulp scanty.

Genera 3, species 200 or more, of wide tropical distribution, but mostly in tropical America; 1 genus and 2 species in the Philippines.

1 ERYTHROXYLUM P. Browne

Shrubs or trees. Stipules intrapetiolar, mostly entirely connate. Leaves distichous, simple, pinnately nerved. Flowers axillary, solitary or fascicled, often 2- to 4-morphous, 5-merous; calyx persistent, connate, imbricate; petals free; stamens 10, 2-seriate; filaments connate into a short, dentate tube; anthers basifixed, longitudinally dehiscent; ovaries 1- to 3-celled (usually only one fertile); 1 ovule in each cell; styles 3, free or connate. Fruit a drupe.

Species 200, pantropic; 1 introduced in the Philippines.

- 1 *Erythroxylum coca* Lam., Encycl. 2: 393, 1786; Payson, Fl. Mal. I, 5: 547, 1958 **Figure 42**

Shrubs erect, branched, glabrous, 1-2 m high. Leaves thin, elliptic-oblong or narrowly obovate-elliptic, 2-7 cm long, obtuse, mucronulate, base acute; longitudinal nerves 2 or 4, slender, more distinct in young leaves. Flowers white, axillary in clusters of 6-12, rarely more; pedicels 3-4 mm long; petal yellow or yellowish green, oblong, convex, 4 x 2 mm. Fruits oblong, 7-10 mm long, red, the pulp thin.

Native of South America, now cultivated in many tropical countries. Recently introduced in the Philippines; cultivated on the University campus, Los Baños, Laguna, Luzon..

Com name – Coca plant (Engl.).

Exsicc. – *Orlido* CA 4870, 10862*, 10863, *Desamparo* CA 10864; *Peña* CA 8154; *Champhaka* CA 8063; *Cabrera* CA 6068; *Lugod* CA 4636, 4654; *Ela* CA 1470; *Gates & Quisumbing* CA 1469; *Gates & Foxworthy* CA 1471; *Pancho* CA 3045, 3368 (CAHP).



Figure 42. *Erythroxylum coca*: 1. flowering twig; 2. fruiting twig; 3. flower; 4. flower, vertical, section; 5. petal; 6. fruit; 7. seed, 2 views.