

## 85. AQUIFOLIACEAE

Trees or shrubs, sometimes epiphytic, unarmed. Leaves alternate, simple, mostly coriaceous, evergreen, estipulate or with 2 minute stipules. Flowers small, in axillary cymes, fascicles, spikes or umbels, bisexual or unisexual; calyx 3- to 6-partite, segments imbricate, persistent; petals 4 or 5, rarely 6-8, connate at base or connate in staminate and free in pistillate, imbricate, deciduous; stamens 4 or 5, adhering to base of corolla, sometimes free and hypogynous in pistillate flowers; filaments subulate; anthers shortly oblong, sub-basifixed or dorsifixed; disc absent; ovaries free, 3- to 15-celled; styles none or very short; stigmas capitate or discoid; ovules 1 or 2 in each cell, pendulous. Drupes with 2- or more 1-seeded, free, rarely connate stones or achenes; seeds with membranous testa, fleshy endosperm and minute embryo.

Genera 3, species 300, temperate to tropical; 1 genus and 20 species in the Philippines.

1. **ILEX** Linnaeus

Trees or shrubs. Leaves coriaceous and shiny, usually entire, sometimes serrate. Inflorescences axillary or subterminal, fascicled or cymose, occasionally spicately racemose, few- to many- flowered; flowers whitish, calyx small, persistent, 4- or 5-lobed; corolla 4, rotate or rarely 3- or 4-parted, exceeding calyx lobes, usually united at base; stamens isomerous, alternating with petals and inserted upon the latter near base; anthers basifixed, oblong; ovaries sessile, 4- to 6- celled, rarely 7 or 8, subglobose; styles very short or absent; stigmas fleshy and confluent on top of ovary; ovules solitary or in pairs in each cell, collateral. Fruits berry-like, spherical, 4- to 8-seeded; seeds stramineous, crustaceous.

Species 200, cosmopolitan but majority in the tropics.

1. *Ilex halconensis* (Merr.) Merr., Philip. J. Sc. 5 (Bot.): 358, 1910; En. Philip. 2: 478, 1923. – *Embelia halconensis* Merr., *op. cit.* 2 (Bot.): 297, 1907. – *Ilex apoensis* Elm. var. *glandulosa* Elm., Leaf. Philip. Bot. 3: 3071, 1919. **Figure 99**

Shrubs, sometimes epiphyte. Leaves rigidly coriaceous, broadly lanceolate to subelliptic, 6 x 3 cm, entire; midrib with about 7 pairs of relatively faint nerves, abruptly acute, obtuse or obtusely rounded at base; petioles 5-8 cm long. Racemes spicate, up to 3 cm long, glabrate, usually solitary in leaf axils; pedicels bract-subtended, 3-5 mm long; calyx broadly lobed, whitish petals twice as long. Fruits ovoidly globose, nipple-pointed; calyx persistent, saucer-shaped, lobes broader than long, glabrous, 3-4 mm long; seeds encrusted.

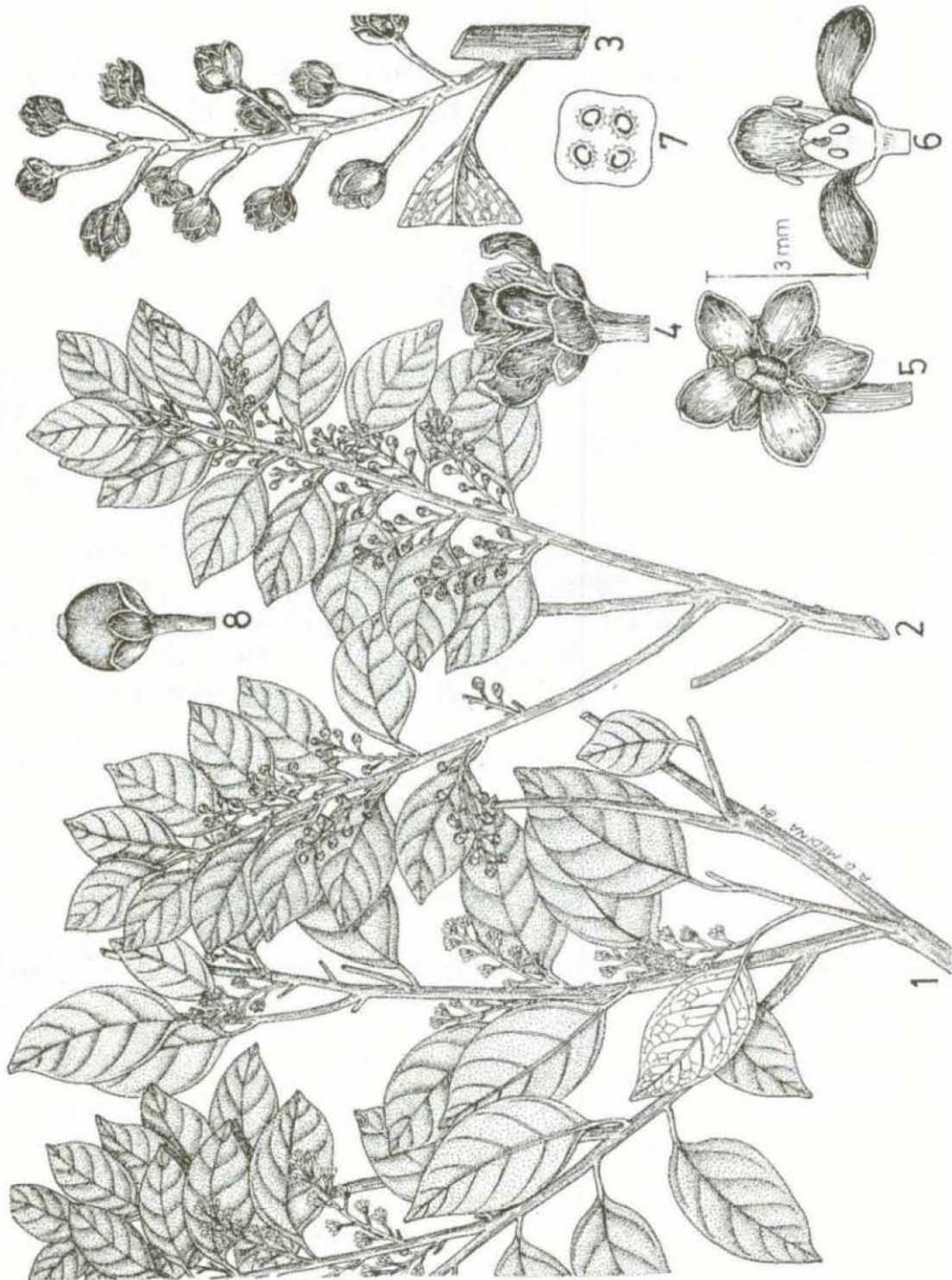


Figure 99. *Ilex halconensis*: 1. staminate twig; 2. pistillate twig; 3. staminate inflorescence; 4. staminate flower; 5. staminate flower, dorsal view; 6. flower, vertical section; 7. ovary, cross section; 8. fruit.