

DRYPETES Vahl

Dioecious trees or shrubs; indumentum simple or absent; leaves alternate, short-petiolate, simple, entire to serrate, stipulate; inflorescences glomerulate, axillary or sometimes cauliflorous; flowers apetalous; male sepals 4 or 5, imbricate; disk intrastaminal; stamens 4-8 (-50), filaments free; pistillode present or absent; female flowers pedicellate; sepals 4 or 5, imbricate, entire; ovary 1-2 (-4)-locular, ovules 2 per locule, anatropous; styles obsolete, stigmas sessile; fruit indehiscent, more or less drupaceous, exocarp fleshy or leathery, endocarp crustaceous or bony; seed usually solitary in each locule, ecarunculate, testa smooth; endosperm copious; embryo straight, cotyledons broad and flat.

This circumtropical genus of ca 150 species is best represented in the Old World; there are about 20 neotropical species, including 5 or 6 in mainland North America. Only a single species, Drypetes gentryi, has been recorded in Nueva Galicia. Drypeteae.

Drypetes gentryi Monachino, Phytologia 3: 32. 1948.

Tropical deciduous or semi-deciduous forest, 200-300 m (-1400 m in northern part of range).

Son., Sin. (Sierra Tacuichamona, Capadero, Gentry 5597, NY, the holotype), Jal., Col., Mich.

Jal., Mpio. Tomatlán, canyon 2 km ESE of Boca de Tomatlán (Levin 2001, DAV); Col., Mpio. Manzanillo, ca 2 km N of Santiago on road to Chacala (Levin 1973, 1975, DAV); Mpio. Zapopán, Barranca de la Experiencia (Díaz Luna 9011); Mich., Mpio. Aquila, La Cruz de Campo, 10 km SE of Aquila (Rzedowski 17969, 17970, 17971).

Dioecious tree to 15-20 m, trunk 0.3-1 m thick, furrowed or fluted; twigs terete, puberulous or nearly glabrous; leaves chartaceous, elliptic or oblong, 3-10 cm long, 2-5.5 cm broad, acuminate or cuspidate, cuneate or cuspidate at apex, cuneate and more or less asymmetric at base; lateral veins mostly 8-10, arching and brochidodromous; margins entire, plane; petioles 10-17 mm long; stipules lanceolate, entire, ca 1 mm long, caducous; flowers in axillary clusters (male ca 15 per cluster, female mostly 4-8), bracts inconspicuous; male pedicels (5-) 7-15 mm long, glabrous; sepals 4 (5), ciliate; stamens (3) 4 or 5, filaments to 1.5-2 mm long, glabrous; anthers ca 1-1.2 mm long and as broad; central disk puberulous, flat, 0.7-1.2 mm across; female flowers with slender glabrous pedicels 6-11 mm long and less than 1 mm thick; sepals 5, puberulous, deciduous; disk puberulous; ovary 1-locular, puberulous, stigmas 2; fruits more or less pyriform, 12-14 mm long,

closely puberulous, with persistent stigma displaced below the tip.

In his description, Monachino compared Drypetes gentryi with D. lateriflora (Sw.) Krug & Urb., a vegetatively similar species confined in Mexico to the Caribbean lowland slopes. Our plant is rather readily separated by longer-pedicellate male flowers and (apparently) by more slender asymmetric fruits.