

MARGARITARIA L. f.

Dioecious shrubs or trees; stems without latex; leaves alternate, petiole<sup>at</sup>, deciduous, stipulate, pinnately veined, eglandular, entire; inflorescences axillary or on short-shoots, flowers <sup>flowers apetalous</sup> flowers in clusters, ♀ flowers 1-5; ♂ pedicel elongated; sepals 4, biseriate, entire or denticulate; disk annular; stamens 4, filaments free; pistillode absent; ♀ pedicel<sup>elongated</sup> not articulated; calyx and disk as in ♂; ovary 2-6-locular, styles free or nearly so, bifid, sometimes dilated; ovules 2 per locule, hemitropous; fruit capsular, irregularly dehiscent, endocarp thin and papery; seeds 2 per locule, outer seed-coat fleshy and bluish, inner coat thick<sup>e</sup> and bony, smooth or rugose; endosperm copious.

This genus of 15 species, pantropical across the continents (but absent from the Pacific islands), is most speciose in Madagascar. In America, there are 3 endemic species in the West Indies, but only one, the widespread Margaritaria nobilis, in mainland North and South America.

Margaritaria nobilis L. f., Suppl. Pl. 428. 1781. Cicca antillana A. Juss., Euph. Gen. Tent. t. 4, fig. 13B. 1824. Phyllanthus antillanus (A. Juss.) Muell. Arg., Linnaea 32: 51. 1863. Phyllanthus nobilis (L. f.) Muell. Arg., DC. Prodr. 15(2): 414. 1866. Phyllanthus nobilis var. hypomalacus Standl., Carnegie Inst. Publ. 461: 68. 1935. Celastrus tetramerus Standl., Contr.

U. S. Nat. Herb. 23: 679. 1923. Phyllanthus antillanus var. hypomalacus (Standl.) Lundell, Phytologia 1: 337. 1939. Additional (extra-Mexican) synonyms are listed by Webster, J. Arnold Arb. 60: 412. 1979.

Semi-evergreen tropical forest and transition between tropical moist forest and oak forest, 500-800 m.

Jal., Mich., Gro., Méx., Oax., Ver., S.L.P., Tab., Camp., Yuc., Q. R., Chis.; Central America; South America (Suriname, Dahlberg, LINN, the holotype).

Jal., 2.5-4 ~~mi~~ mi N of La Cuesta (McVaugh 21190); Mpio. La Huerta, Cumbres de Cuixmala, Arroyo Zarco, NE of Cerro Colorado (Lott & Solís Magallanes 1251); SE slopes of Cerro La Petaca, 4-5 km ESE of Casimiro Castillo [La Resolana] (Iltis et al. 336).  
*also Lott 1440; Guadalupe Ayala 131*

Dioecious, deciduous shrub or tree 5-10 m high; twigs usually glabrous and lenticellate; leaves chartaceous, elliptic to oblanceolate, mostly 6-15 cm long, 2.5-5 cm broad, acuminate, cuneate at base, pinnately veined, entire; lateral veins 7-12, somewhat arching; petioles 2-5 mm long, channelled adaxially; stipules usually deciduous, pale and scarious, lanceolate, 1.5-4.5 mm long; ♂ flowers several per cluster; pedicel 2.5-8 mm long; sepals glabrous, mostly 1-1.5 mm long and broad; disk 1-2 mm across; stamens 4, free, filaments to 1-2 mm long; anthers

oblong, 0.5-1 mm long; ♀ flowers 1 to several per axil; pedicel glabrous, 5-15 mm long; sepals biseriate, inner ones 1.5-2.5 mm long and broad (outer ones narrower); disk generally 1-2 mm across; ovary mostly 4- or 5-locular (rarely 3- or 6-); styles free or basally connate, 1.5-3 mm long, bifid; fruit subglobose to oblate, 7.5-11 mm in diameter; seeds with thick bluish green sarcotesta, endotesta smooth, 2-4 mm long.

The records of Margaritaria nobilis from Jalisco represent the northwestern limit of the species. The specimens are typical of those from other North American localities; the pubescent form ("var. hypomalacus") has so far not been collected. The distinctive irregularly splitting fruits with bluish fleshy seeds set the plant off from other Nueva Galician Euphorbiaceae.