

## MUNTINGIACEAE C. Bayer, M. W. Chase & M. F. Fay

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**Shrubs or trees**, to 12 m. **Leaves** alternate (distichous), petiolate, stipitate; stipules subulate or filiform [absent or peltate discs]; blade palmately veined, seldom lobed, base often asymmetric, margins serrate, surfaces hairy, hairs usually mixed: unicellular and multicellular, simple with some setiform and some glandular, branched, and stellate, often  $\pm$  tangled, forming tomentum. **Inflorescences**: flowers solitary or in clusters of 2–3+, usually supra-axillary; involucre absent [bracteoles ca. 15, filiform]. **Flowers**: sepals caducous [persistent], (4–)5(–7), valvate, basally distinct or weakly connate; petals caducous, (4–)5(–7), distinct; nectaries absent; stamens 10–75+, filaments distinct or bases connate; ovary superior [inferior], 5–7-carpellate; style 1 [0]; stigmas 5–7,  $\pm$  decurrent. **Fruits** baccate,  $\pm$  spheric. **Seeds** [25–]100–200+.  $x = 15$ .

Genera 3, species 3 (1 in the flora): introduced; Florida; Mexico, West Indies, Central America, South America; introduced also in Old World.

Plants included in Muntingiaceae (in the sense of C. Bayer et al. 1998) have been treated in Eleocarpaceae, Flacourtiaceae, or Tiliaceae. *Dicraspidia* Standley (Central America and Colombia) and *Neotessmannia* Burret (Peru) are relatively poorly known.

SELECTED REFERENCE Bayer, C., M. W. Chase, and M. F. Fay. 1998. Muntingiaceae, a new family of dicotyledons with malvacean affinities. *Taxon* 47: 37–42.

1. MUNTINGIA Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 509. 1753; Gen. Pl. ed. 5, 224. 1754 \* [For Abraham Munting, 1626–1683, Dutch botanist] I

**Leaves**: blade lanceolate to lanceolate-linear, marginal teeth irregular, abaxial indument more persistent, denser than adaxial. **Flowers**: sepals lanceolate-attenuate, base navicular; petals imbricate, white or pinkish [yellow], crumpled in bud, obovate and  $\pm$  clawed or spatulate; ovary obscurely stipitate, subtended by ring of setiform hairs. **Berries** red [yellow]. **Seeds** yellowish, plumply lenticular.  $x = 15$ .

Species 1: introduced; Florida; Mexico, West Indies, Central America, South America; introduced also in Old World Tropics.

*Muntingia* is widely grown in warm to hot climates for fruit, fiber, and firewood.

1. **Muntingia calabura** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1: 509. 1753 \* Calabura, Jamaica cherry F I

**Leaves:** petiole 2–5 mm; blade 60–150 × 20–50 mm. **Pedicels** 5–20(–35) mm. **Flowers:** 8–12+ mm; petals 12–20 mm. **Berries** 10–15 mm diam. **Seeds** 0.4–0.5 × 0.2–0.3 mm. **2n** = 28 (Costa Rica), 30 (India).

Flowering ± year round. Disturbed, nonsalty sites; 0–10+ m; introduced; Fla.; Mexico; West Indies; Central America; South America; also introduced in Old World Tropics.

*Muntingia calabura* has been reported as a spontaneous weed in commercial greenhouses in California. It was evidently brought into the state with coco fiber used in hydroponics installations (F. Hrusa et al. 2002). Fruits of *M. calabura* are reputed to be prized by bats, birds, children, and fish.