

A NEW SPECIES OF *SOLANUM* FROM ECUADOR

W. G. D'Arcy*

Solanum palenquense D'Arcy, sp. nov.

(Plate 18:A).

Labrusca ascendens, foliis subtus albotomentosis, leviter crenato-dentatis, apice acuminatis; calyce pulverulenti vel glabra; corolla lobis angustis, dorsi pulverulentibus; antheris poris minutis sursum versus aperientibus; acinis fortasse globosis; inflorescentia haud suppetunt. Species nova *Solano albido* Dun. proxima, differt statu scandenti, pilis minutioribus.

High climbing vine. Stems flattened, soon terete, and drying finely striate, puberulent with minute, degenerate stellate hairs. Leaves large, (30-) 8 cm long, (12-) 7 cm wide, elliptical, sometimes somewhat oblique, apically acuminate, basally obtuse, sometimes oblique or dimidiate, the margin shallowly sinuate with minute, porrect, glandular-callose teeth, the veins 6-9 on each side, parallel, well-spaced, straight, slightly ascending, impressed or plane above, elevated beneath, the minor venation obscure or reticulate, discolorous, glabrate above, finely whitish puberulent or tomentulose beneath; petioles 15-20 mm long, abscissing basally, glabrate. Inflorescence not seen. Flowers with the calyx glabrate, the 4-5 lobes rounded-obtuse, ca. 5 mm wide; corolla purple, the lobes narrow, ca. 20 mm long, 4 mm wide, separate nearly to the base, dorsally fine-pulverulent; stamens 5, unequal, the anthers narrow, ca. 6 mm long, opening by minute, discolorous terminal pores, basally hastate, the filaments glabrous, slender, ca. 3 mm long, ovary not seen. Fruit globose, 15 mm across (?immature), fleshy.

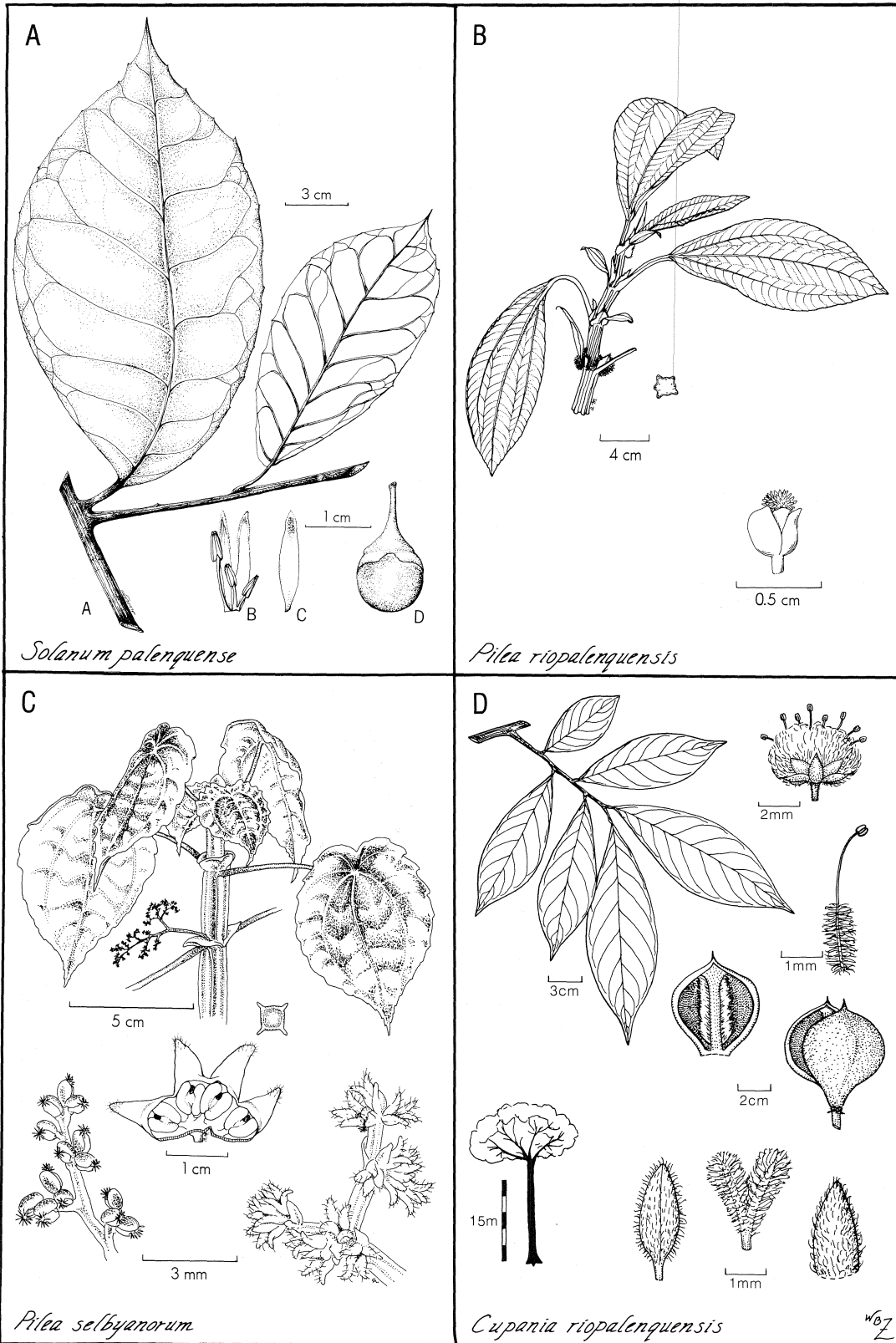
TYPE: ECUADOR: LOS RÍOS: Río Palenque Science Center, halfway between Santo Domingo de los Colorados and Quevedo, alt. 150-220 m, wet forest; large vine growing to tree tops in deep forest. Diameter of stem at ground 10 cm. Leaves green-white on underside. Growing along Dodson Road near junction with trail 3. Petals purple. Stamens yellow. 26 Oct. 1974, *Dodson 5674* (HOLOTYPE: MO; ISOTYPE: SEL, US, Río Palenque Science Center).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: (from type locality, sterile): *Gentry 9692* (MO).

This species resembles *Solanum albidum* Dun., a tree of Peru, Bolivia and western Brasil which attains a height of at least 6 m. *Solanum albidum* has white or yellowish-tomentose leaf undersides, pedicels, calyces and corollas, while the indumentum of *S. palenquense* is much reduced, mostly consisting of a fine pulverulence or wanting altogether. The corolla lobes of *S. palenquense* are much more deeply divided and the plant is described by collectors as being a high climbing vine rather than a tree.

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Plate 18:A. *Solanum palenquense* D'Arcy: A, branch with leaves; B, portion of corolla with three stamens; C, corolla lobe in dorsal view; D, fruit, ? immature. After *Dodson 5674* (MO).



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