

A NEW SPECIES OF *ODONTOCARYA* (MENISPERMACEAE)
FROM ECUADOR

R. C. Barneby*

Odontocarya perforata Barneby, sp. nov.

(Plate 13:B).

Affinitatis intragenericae inflorescentia ♂ deficienti ignotae, verosimiliter ob inflorescentiam ♀ simpliciter racemosam ramulis annotinis emissam sect. *Odontocaryae* vel sect. *Diplobotryae* pertinens, ab his omnibus foliorum lamina suborbiculari subcordata, drupa maxima ca. 2.5 cm longa, et praesertim endocarpii testa dorso lignosa longitrorsus canaliculis vacuis perforata procul abstans.

High-climbing vines flowering in forest canopy, glabrous throughout, the trunk unknown, the lenticellate annotinous branchlets channeled when dry; petioles (few seen) 8-13.5 cm; leaf-blades thinly chartaceous discolorous, paler beneath, suborbicular shallowly cordate 12-14 cm diam, at insertion of petiole flabellately produced backward, from very base palmately 7-nerved, the lateral nerves 1-2 times Y-forked, the slender, dorsally prominent midrib giving rise on each side near and beyond middle to ca. 3 incurved-ascending secondary nerves, the tertiary and reticulate venulation fine and lax, the ultimate areoles > 1 mm in diam; inflorescences ♀ solitary at nodes of annotinous branchlets, simply, in fruit laxly racemose, the axis (including peduncle) 15-18 cm; fruiting pedicels 10-12 mm, dilated into a capitate receptacle; fl unknown; drupe broadly ellipsoid 25 mm long, 18-21 mm wide, the thin exocarp yellow drying black and wrinkled, the mesocarp fibrous-gelatinous, the fibres forming a dense fleece persistent on the endocarp; endocarp broadly ellipsoid, obtuse at both ends, ca. 22 mm long, 13 mm wide, dorsally convex and obtusely 11-ridged lengthwise, the ridges separated by shallow grooves, the ligneous testa 2-2.5 mm thick, under each longitudinal rib perforated by an empty cylindrical channel, ventrally convex by elevation of the broadly ellipsoid condyle ca. 12 mm long, 2 mm broad, 6 mm high, the external wall crustaceous ca. 0.2 mm thick, the condylar aperture linear, almost closed.

TYPE: ECUADOR: LOS RÍOS: vine in treetops of mature forest, alt. 150-220 m, along trail 2, Río Palenque Science Station, km 56 road Quevedo-Sto. Domingo, 1 March 1976 (♀, fr), C. H. Dodson 5992. [HOLOTYPE: MO; CLASTOTYPE (drupa): NY; ISOTYPES: SEL, Río Palenque Science Center].

In absence of staminate flowers the close relationships of *Odontocarya perforata* within its genus cannot be determined. The simply racemose pistillate inflorescence suggests either sect. *Odontocarya* or sect. *Diplobotrya*, in either of which the very large drupe, yellow when ripe, and the unique endocarp are equally distinctive. The endocarp of *O. perforata*, clothed like that of the distantly allopatric *O. mallosperma* Barneby in a dense persistent fleece of towlike fibers, presents the first known instance in *Odontocarya* of perforated testa, analogous in structure to that of *Caryomene* in tribe Anomospermeae, but hitherto unknown in Neo-tropical Tinosporeae. The ventrally domed, thin-walled condyle opening by a linear or almost closed aperture, is an equally diagnostic feature of the endocarp.

Plate 13:B. a, branch with fruit; b, transverse section through middle of endocarp, showing perforated testa, folded endosperm, and cavity of condyle.

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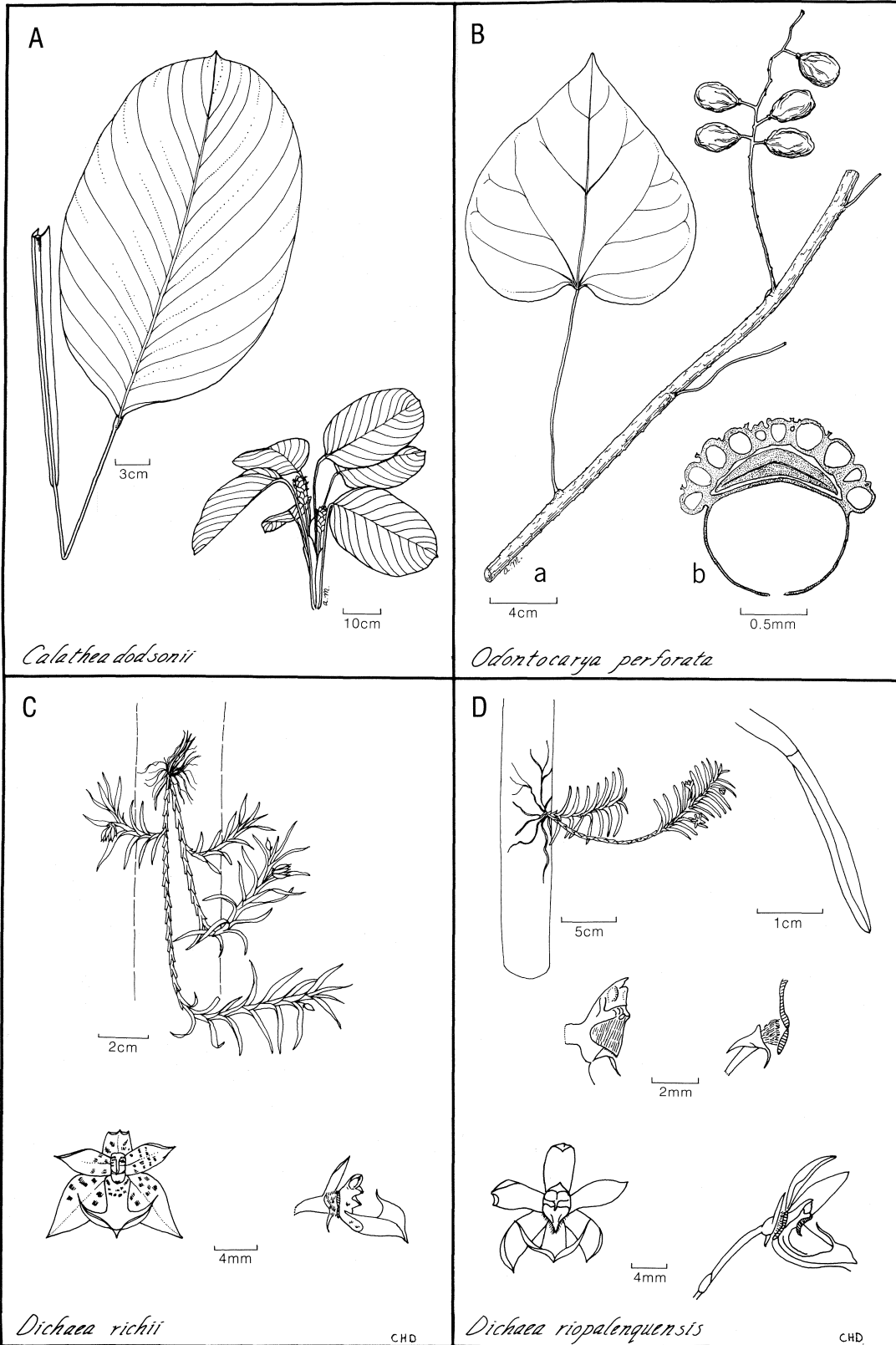


Plate 13