

COCHLOSPERMACEAE

by

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Trees, shrubs, or herbs with orange or reddish juice. Leaves alternate, palmatilobed to palmately compound. Stipules deciduous. Inflorescence consisting of racemes or panicles. Flowers large, actinomorphic or slightly zygomorphic, hermaphrodite. Sepals 4—5, free, imbricate, deciduous. Petals 4—5, free, imbricate, deciduous. Stamens numerous; filaments free or connate at the base, equal or unequal; anthers 2-celled, opening by apical pores or slits. Ovary superior, 1-celled, 3—5-carpelled; style 1; stigma minute, 3—5-dentate. Ovules numerous on 3—5 parietal placentas; placentas often intruding and then the ovary falsely or basally 3—5-celled. Fruit a capsule, 3—5-valved. Seeds numerous, reniform or rarely globose, hairy or glabrous. Embryo curved. Endosperm copious, oily.

About 25 species in 3 genera of tropical distribution, often in arid areas.

Amourexia Sessé & Moçino ex DeCandolle, Prodr. 2: 638. 1825

Small shrubs or herbs. Leaves palmatisect, nearly glabrous; lobes serrate near the apex; petioles long. Stipules subulate, conspicuous. Inflorescence consisting of a terminal raceme or of axillary and terminal racemes. Flowers 5-merous, yellow, orange or reddish. Sepals tardily deciduous. Petals large, contorted in the bud. Stamens numerous, in two sets on opposite sides in the flower, one set with long filaments, the other with shorter ones; filaments filiform; anthers linear, basifixed. Ovary subglobose, finely and densely pubescent, 3-celled by the intruding placentas; style simple, filiform; stigma minute, 3-dentate. Capsule globose or ovoid, 3-valved. Seeds large, globose or reniform.

From Texas to Mexico.

Amourexia wrightii A. Gray

A. GRAY, Pl. Wright. 2: 26. 1853; — *A. palmatifida* auct. non Sessé & Moçino; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 288. 1913; Fl. D. W. Ind. Isl. 2: 68. 1914; ARNOLDO, Zakflora 109. 1964.

Small undershrub, up to 30 cm high; stems glabrous, erect, simple or slightly

branched, arising from a stout, tuberous rootstock. Leaves 5—(7-) palmate-partite, cordate at the base, 4—5 × 4—5 cm, the lobes obovate, obtuse at the apex, cuneate at the base, the margin serrate, at least in the upper half; petiole up to 7 cm long. Stipules about 5 mm long. Inflorescence consisting of terminal, few-flowered, elongate racemes. Flowers large. Sepals 5, unequal, oblong to ovate, rounded or acutish at the apex, up to 12 × 5 mm, dotted with red longitudinal lines. Petals 5, ovate to broadly ovate, rounded at the apex, unguiculate at the base, about 22 × 15 mm, yellow or orange, with a large dark blotch. Stamens unequal, the smaller ones with filiform, about 8 mm long filaments and about 3 mm long linear anthers; anthers opening by 2 apical pores. Ovary globose, villous, about 0.5 cm in diam.; style glabrous. Capsule ovoid-globose, hanging, 3—4 cm long. Seeds obovoid, 5 × 4 mm; testa divided into a thin, loose outer layer (arillode) and a thick, dark, smooth, lustrous and crustaceous inner layer.

South-western Texas to Arizona, Mexico, and Curaçao.

Vernacular name: *manoeweeri* (Leeward Group).

CURAÇAO: calcareous hills and seashore near Savonet (Boldingh 5045, fl. & fr. 5046, fl. & fr. Nov.); Hato (Arnoldo 2183, fl. & fr. May).