

Key to the 13 species of *Fraxinus* occurring in Mesoamericana
by Eva Wallander (www.oleaceae.info)

(last updated 28 Febr. 2010)

Five (of ten) species in section Melioides

- 1. Leaflets sessile or nearly so
 - 2. Leaflets 7-9, 3-6 cm long, underside papillose and glaucous, petiolule 0-3 mm; samara 2.5-3.8 cm long, narrowly winged but rarely to the base, seed cavity terete; small tree 5-7 m [SW USA (AZ, NM, TX), Mexico] ***F. papillosa***
 - 2. Leaflets 5-9, 5-9 cm long, pubescent and green on both sides; samara 2.5-5 cm long, wing decurrent to base, seed cavity somewhat flattened; large tree up to 30 m [W USA (CA, OR, WA), to Baja California in Mexico?] ***F. latifolia***
- 1. Leaflets stalked, petiolules > 3 mm
 - 3. Leaves pubescent or velutinous, leaflets 3-7, 2-7 cm long, petiolules < 5 mm; samara < 3 cm long, wing decurrent to base, wing ≈ seed length, wing frequently notched at the top; tree 5-15 m [SW USA (AZ, CA, NV, NM, TX, UT), Mexico] ***F. velutina***
 - 3. Leaves glabrous
 - 4. Leaflets 5-9, 5-15 cm long, apex long-acuminate, petiolules 3-13 mm; samara 2-4 cm, wing decurrent halfway, wing much longer than seed; tall tree up to 35 m [Mexico to Honduras, Hawaii, cult. S. America] ***F. uhdei***
 - 4. Leaflets 3-5, 4-13 cm long, petiolules 2-10 mm; samara 2.5-4 cm, wing decurrent nearly to base, wing as long as or slightly longer than seed; small tree 6-12 m [SC USA (TX, LA, MS), Mexico] ***F. berlandieriana***

All five species in section Pauciflorae

General characters: Rachis of the leaf narrowly winged; leaflets sessile; small trees or shrubs.

- 1 Leaflets coarsely serrate [Mexico, Guatemala] ***F. purpusii***
- 1 Leaflets entire or nearly so
 - 2 Leaves (5)7-16 cm long; leaflets 3.5-6 cm long [Mexico] ***F. dubia***
 - 2 Leaves 2-6(8) cm long; leaflets 1-3 cm long
 - 3 Shoot and inflorescence ferruginous-tomentose; leaf rachis tomentose and or pilose; leaflets ovate to elliptical; samara 20-25 mm long, wing emarginate and approximately of the same length as the seed [central Mexico] ***F. rufescens***
 - 3 Shoot densely tomentose with fulvous multiradiate hairs; leaflets elliptical; samara 12-20 mm, wing slightly longer than the seed and decurrent nearly to the base [USA: Arizona, MX Sonora] ***F. gooddingii***
 - 3 Shoot slightly gray puberulent; rachis of the leaf glabrous; oblanceolate or rhombic-elliptical leaflets; samara 15-24 mm, wing much longer than the seed and decurrent on upper end [USA: Texas, Arizona, New Mexico; Mexico] ***F. greggii***

Three species also present in Mesoamericana but unmistakable:

F. dipetala Shrub or small tree (2-6 m); fragrant flowers with united two petals (sometimes lacking and the two forms may occur in the same panicle) in many-flowered and showy inflorescences [SW USA, Mexico]

F. anomala Shrub or small tree (2-5 m); leaves simple or occasionally 3-5 leaflets; flowers apetalous in lateral panicles [SW USA, Mexico]

F. cuspidata Shrub or small tree (2-6 m); corolla with 4 united petals [SW USA, Mexico]