



## *Magnolia zoquepopolucae* (subsection *Talauma*, Magnoliaceae), a new species from Sierra de Santa Marta, Veracruz, Mexico

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### Abstract

A new rainforest species of *Magnolia* from Sierra Santa Marta, Soteapan, Los Tuxtlas, Veracruz, Mexico, is described and illustrated. *Magnolia zoquepopolucae* belongs to section *Talauma*, subsection *Talauma*. It differs from *M. mexicana* in having fruits spheroidal versus ovoid to ellipsoidal, the dorsal wall of carpels non humped versus humped, a larger number of carpels and stamens, longer petioles, petals and sepals, and more gradually attenuated petals. The flowers of this species are used to prepare a chocolate-like and *masa* (maize)-based hot drink by the Zoque Popoluca culture, which is valued for medicinal purposes.

### Resumen

Se describe e ilustra una nueva especie de *Magnolia* del bosque tropical perennifolio de la Sierra de Santa Marta, Soteapan, Los Tuxtlas, Veracruz, México. *Magnolia zoquepopolucae* pertenece a la sección *Talauma* y subsección *Talauma*, difiere de *M. mexicana* en sus frutos esferoides vs ovoides a elipsoides, sus paredes dorsales de los carpelos sin joroba vs jorobados, su mayor número de carpelos y de estambres, sus peciolo, pétalos y sépalos más largos y sus pétalos más gradualmente atenuados. Las flores son usadas por los zoque popolucas para preparar champurrado, el cual presuntamente es de gran valor medicinal.

### Introduction

Many genera of Magnoliaceae have recently being merged with *Magnolia* Linnaeus (1753: 535) (Nootboom 1993, 1998, 2000, Figlar & Nootboom 2004, Figlar 2006). However, preliminary nuclear molecular evidence (Nie *et al.* 2008) shows at least some indication that Neotropical *Talauma* Jussieu (1789: 281) (= *Magnolia* section *Talauma* Baillon (1866: 66), subsection *Talauma*) may be monophyletic and likely diverged 42 million years ago during the mid-Eocene (Azuma *et al.* 2001). Future molecular systematic studies may be compatible with the taxonomic decision to treat *Talauma* and *Dugandiodendron* Lozano (1975: 33) as distinct genera; however, for now we treat all Neotropical Magnoliaceae as consisting of a single genus, *Magnolia*, with two sections, *Magnolia* and *Talauma*, the latter with three subsections: *Cubenses* Imchanickaja (1991: 60), *Dugandiodendron* (Lozano) Figlar & Nootboom (2004: 90) and *Talauma*.

Subsection *Talauma* includes 33 species in the Neotropics. A single species of this group has previously been reported from Mexico, namely, *Magnolia mexicana* Candolle (1817: 451). Here we describe the second species from subsection *Talauma*.