

TURNERACEAE

Turnera Family

(10 genera, 100 species)

**Leaves:** Alternate, simple, usually serrate, often 2-glandular at base; stipules small or none.  
**Flowers:** Regular, perfect, small or large, usually solitary in leaf axil, sessile or with a peduncle, frequently with 2 bractlets; calyx tubular with 5 lobes, petals 5, most often yellow or orange, with a feathery stigma.  
**Fruit:** Capsule, 1-celled, 3-valvate at apex or for its whole length; seeds oblong-cylindric, with an aril.

Trees, shrubs, and herbs; glabrous or pubescent, pubescence of simple or branched hairs. **Leaves:** alternate, petiolate, simple, usually serrate, base often 2-glandular; stipules small or none. **Inflorescence:** axillary, solitary or few, rarely racemose. **Flowers:** regular, perfect, small or large, sessile or with a peduncle, peduncles free or connate with petiole, often articulate, frequently 2-bracteolate; calyx tubular, 5-parted, deciduous, lobes imbricate; petals 5, most often yellow, inserted in calyx throat, membranous, contorted in bud, deciduous, naked or sometimes bearing a fringed scale at apex of claw; stamens 5, inserted at base, middle, or throat of calyx tube, rarely hypogynous, filaments free, complanate-subulate; anthers oblong, cells introrsely dehiscent; ovary free, ovoid or elongate, 1-celled, styles 3, terminal, filiform, simple or 2-parted; stigmas fan-shaped multifid, rarely simply dilated; ovules numerous, 2-seriate on 3 parietal placentae, ascending, anatropous. **Fruit:** capsule, 1-celled, 3-valvate at apex or for its whole length, valves bearing placentae along middle; seeds oblong-cylindric, slightly curved, arillate, testa subcrustaceous, pitted (foveolate); endosperm abundant; embryo terete, axile, orthotropous, cotyledons plano-convex, with terete radicle.

The Turneraceae family has ten genera, found in tropical or warm regions of both hemispheres.

ERBLICHIA Seem.

Large trees. Leaves alternate, petiolate, serrate; stipules minute. Flowers large, yellow or orange-yellow, peduncles articulate below middle, 2-bracteolate, bractlets subfoliaceous, serrate; sepals lanceolate, colorful; petals hypogynous, obovate-spatulate, unguiculate, claw with a fringed appendage at its apex; stamens 5, hypogynous, anthers linear-oblong; ovary oblong, styles 3, stigmas dilated and subclavate. Capsules oblong, pubescent or glabrous, 3-valvate, many-seeded; seeds straight, ovate-oblong.

The genus *Erblichia* consists of one species in Central America and four in Madagascar. The wood in this genus is described as brown, of medium density but hard and tough; fine-textured, grain straight to irregular.



- Leaves glabrous or essentially glabrous below ..... *Erblichia odorata*
- Leaves velutinous below ..... *Erblichia odorata* var. *mollis*

**Erblichia odorata** Seem. Conóp; Cortez; Candillaria

English: "Butterfly Tree" (Belize)

Habitat: Occasional in wet forests; up to about 900 meters.

Distribution: Alta Verapaz, Izabal, Petén. Mexico; Belize; Honduras; Nicaragua; Costa Rica; Panama.

- Trees to 40 meters tall, trunk to 50 cm in diameter; leaves short-petiolate, lance-oblong or elliptic-oblong, mostly 7–14 cm long, apex acute or acuminate, base acute or acuminate, appressed-serrate or crenate, glabrous and lustrous above, glabrous beneath or nearly glabrous, often with appressed hairs along costa above; sepals lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, 5–5.6 cm long, long-acuminate or caudate, usually yellow-green with salmon or pale orange margins, appressed-pilulose outside; petals yellow, bright orange or salmon-orange, cuneate-oblong, cuspidate or caudate, 6–8 cm long, 3.5–4.5 cm wide; anthers 4–6 mm long; ovary glabrous to densely velutinous with stiff yellow-brown hairs, short ascending.

Notes: Considered a beautiful tree when covered with flowers, usually blooming in March and April.

**Erblichia odorata** var. **mollis** (Standl. & Steyerl.) L. O. Wms. Candellaria de Montaña; Palo de Mora

Habitat: Moist highland forests; 1,200–1,500 meters.

Distribution: Quezaltenango, San Marcos, Sololá, Suchitepéquez. Mexico.

- This variety is also a tall tree, from the typical variety it differs mainly in having velutinous pubescence on the lower surface of the leaves.