

\* **CAPULIN.** *Prunus salicifolia* HBK.

ROSACEÆ

A small tree, up to 10 m. high, oblong-lanceolate, pointed leaves, and white flowers assembled in racemes, on which several, up to 20 fruits are produced. The fruit is up to 2 cm. in diameter, similar to a small cherry, maroon-purple in color, meaty, juicy, and of good flavor, with a trace of bitterness in the skin. May be eaten fresh, stewed or made into preserves. One of the more important small fruits in the highlands of Mexico, Central America, Colombia and Ecuador, where it grows wild and semi-cultivated. Introduced into the Mountain Province in 1924 and recommended for elevations above 1,200 meters.

Peter Jansen Wester. *The Food Plants of the Philippines*. Third Revised Edition. The Government of the Philippine Islands; Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Bureau of Agriculture, Bulletin No. 39 (Manila: Bureau of Printing, 1925), 52-53.

Pochteca - yo - tl

Pochteca - long-distance merchant class

yo - suffix denoting an abstract quality or its material manifestation

tl - termination designating nounword

These recordings were produced in Santo Tomás la Concordia in the municipality of Nativitas, Tlaxcala, México, and processed between New York and Chicago.

The capulín is planted in the margin between an ejido plot and the adjacent road. The result of land expropriated after 1910 to serve as a collective system of small-scale agricultural production and ownership, the ejido is a principal shaper of the small roadways branching out of rural towns and settlements.

Predominantly during the morning, these roads are used by ejidatarios, typically driving pickup trucks or two-wheel horse-drawn carts.

Paralleling these roads stretches an interwoven network of small concrete irrigation channels, with the flow of water to the fields controlled manually using small sluice gates. The scheduled distribution and allocation of this water, as well as the upkeep of the irrigation channels, is negotiated through an annually elected leader from among the town's ejidatarios.

Lining the small sections of land between ejidal parcels and roads, trees of varying densities are grown, some intentionally and some without direct intervention. Many of the deliberate additions are fruit trees planted by the ejidatarios themselves. These trees are cultivated on an individual basis for the consumption of fruit during the workday. Their proximity to the irrigation channels aids in their growth and productivity.

The rumble of vehicles roughly lurching over uneven dirt roads; the squeaking wheels of horsedrawn carts and the whip that motivates them, shouts to greet the passersby; the intermittent yipping of a roving pack of wild dogs, reactionary in their defensive posture; the water trickling through choked channels; a rogue rocket bursting in the air; further away, the moan of gas-powered string trimmers.

Flies buzz happily around him, working at the edge of a field, on the edge of town. He clears away the dirt, driving down a shovel, rattling in the strip of packed soil and rocks that separates the plot.

In the trees above, birds call, and wind moves the branches. The wind will change predictably during this period: from north, north-east in the quiet morning, then increasing in velocity and inverting in direction during the late hours of the afternoon.

Further, a wild dog shakes the tall grass as it walks; A motorcycle humming around the last corner of the road scatters dust. Back into town, paver blocks bear the weight of a truck as it makes its rounds, reciting over a loudspeaker a list of wares for sale; in the yards of the houses, roosters direct their hens; and on a road leading to the center of town, an old musket, filled only with a generous portion of powder, erupts in rehearsal.

Clearing away the shovel and plastic ripped from around the roots, he pours out water, saturating the ground and remaining brush. It is evening now; the cold temperatures of the night will allow for the most water to be absorbed into the sapling. If the sapling can survive the cold winds, it may grow to bear fruit.

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Since 2020, Dylan Clark & Ángel Xicohtencatl Espinoza have worked along the Río Atoyac in Tlaxcala, México, engaging ejidatorios in developing new documentary approaches that contend with environmental and agricultural histories.