

Peumus boldus Molina

Standardized Common Name: Boldo

Family: Monimiaceae

Taxonomy: *P. boldus* is endemic to Chile and is the only species in its genus.

Description: Tree to 20 m high, with trunk to 1 m in diameter at the base; crown rounded, many-branched, leafy; bark brownish gray, almost smooth to slightly ridged and cracked on the trunk; twigs pubescent. Leaves opposite; petiole 3–5 mm long, pubescent with short soft matted hairs or subglabrous; blade broadly elliptical to ovate, (2–)3–6(–8) cm long, (1–)1.5–3.5(–4.5) cm broad, leathery; base rounded; apex broadly rounded-obtuse; margins entire, revolute; upper surface dark green, with deeply sunken nerves, numerous glandular hairs; lower surface lighter in color, with prominent nerves, bearing stellate hairs. Dioecious. Inflorescence a raceme, axillary or terminal, several-flowered. Perianth 5–7 mm in diameter, of 10–12 tepals in 2–3 whorls, the outer membranous and pubescent, the inner petaloid and yellowish-white; stamens numerous, in several whorls; carpels separate, 2–7. Fruit a drupe, usually 2–5 developing per flower, 1-seeded.

Parts in Commerce: Leaves

Identification:

- Broadly elliptical to ovate-elliptical, (2–)3–6(–8) cm long
- Petiole short, more or less pubescent
- Base rounded
- Apex broadly obtuse, somewhat rounded
- Texture leathery, rough
- Margins usually somewhat revolute, often slightly undulate
- Venation pinnate, with several pairs of secondary veins splitting and anastomosing short of margin
- Midrib and secondary veins sunken in upper surface, conspicuous beneath
- Upper surface dark green (may become reddish brown upon drying) with pale warty glands bearing tiny hairs
- Lower surface paler, at least somewhat pubescent with stellate hairs
- Odor aromatic
- Taste aromatic, pungent

Adulterants: Wichtl reports *Cryptocarya peumus* Nees as an adulterant that can be detected by its lack of warty protrusions or stellate hairs. Its leaf margins are distinctly undulate but very little revolute.

References:

Morawetz W. Karyologie und ökologisch-morphologische Differenzierung von *Peumus boldus* (Monimiaceae, Laurales). *Pl Syst Evol.* 1981;138:157–173.

Rodríguez R. R, Matthei S. O, Quezada M. M. *Flora Arbórea de Chile*. Concepcion, Chile: Editorial de la Universidad de Concepcion; 1983.

Wichtl M, ed. *Herbal Drugs and Phytopharmaceuticals*, 3rd English ed. Stuttgart: medpharm Scientific Publishers and Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press; 2004:91–93.

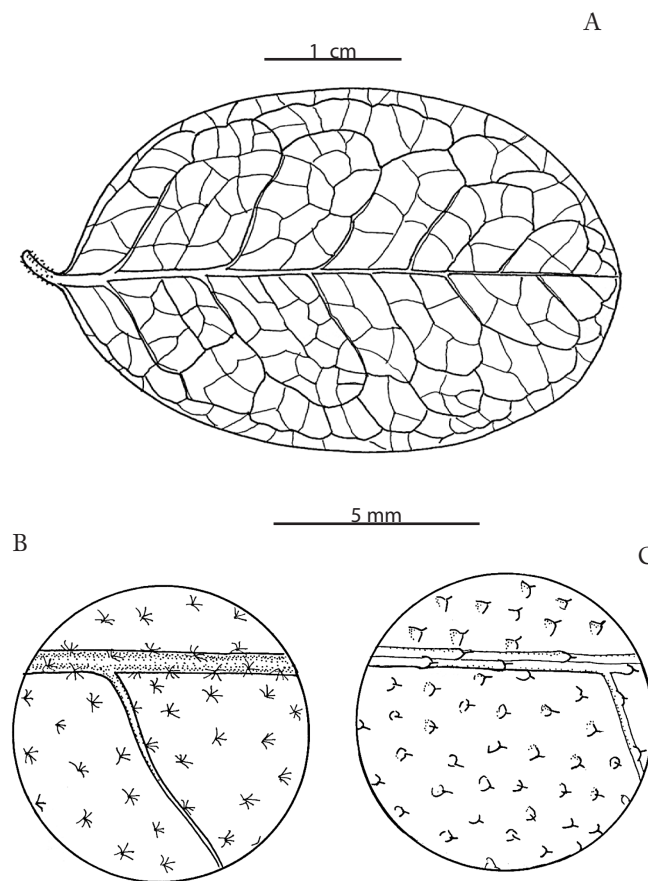


Figure 52: a–c, *Peumus boldus* leaf and close-ups of lower and upper surfaces.