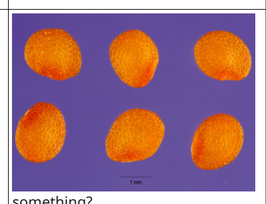
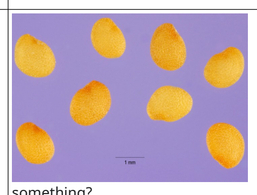
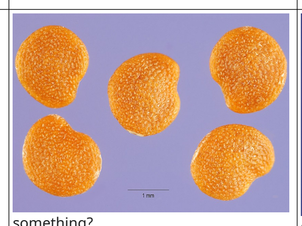
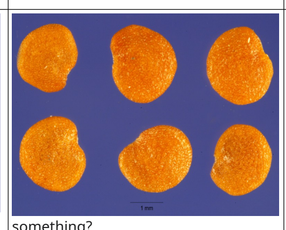
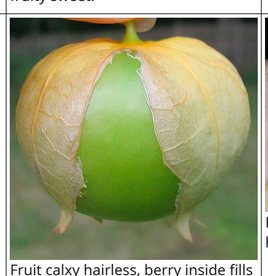
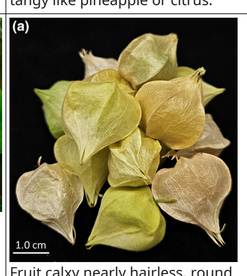
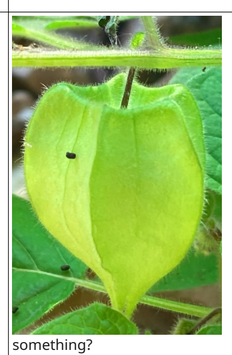
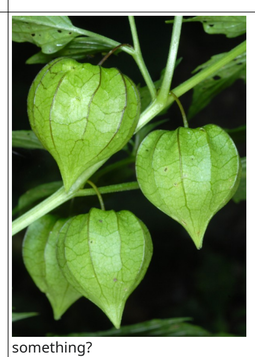
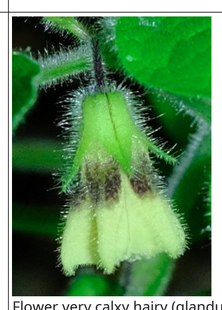
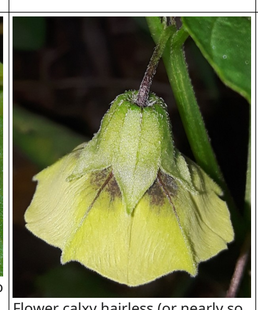
Physalis Species ID Guide

ID Trait	*Physalis ixocarpa* (Tomatillo)	*Physalis peruviana* (Goldenberry)	*Physalis grisea* (Aunt Molly's Groundcherry) – Misapplied as *Physalis pruinosa*	*Physalis pubescens* (Hairy Annual Groundcherry) – Very closely related to *P. grisea* (Might be its wild anscestor).	*Physalis angulata* (Cut-leaf Groundcherry)	*Physalis longifolia* (Long-leaf Groundcherry)	*Physalis virginiana* (Virginia Groundcherry)	*Physalis heterophylla* (Clammy Groundcherry)	*Alkekengi officinarum* (Chinese Lantern Groundcherry)
Seeds	 something?	 something?		 something?	 something?			 something?	 something?
Ripe Fruit (Uncut)	 Berry yellow, purple or green when fully ripe, big to very large beef-steak sized (Berry shape typically round but elongated varieites also exist). Taste varries from clean sourness with zero sweetness to fruity sweet.	 Berry yellow to orange, medium to slightly large sized. Taste sweet, very savory (almost cheesy) & fruity with additcitve qualities.	 Berry yellow to orangeish-yellow, medium sized. Taste sweet & tangy like pineapple or citrus.	???Berry unkown color (probably golden yellow with purple tinges or green). Unknown size (small to medium?). Unknown taste (Probably sweet).	 Berry light-pale yellow (Sometimes with pale lime-yellow), medium size. Taste sweet.	 Berry yellow, small size. Taste delicious bright lemony x light caramel sweet groundcherry flavor.	 Berry deep orange-brown, small size. Taste delicious maple-syrup/heavy caramel x groundcherry flavor.	 Berry yellow, medium size. Best tasting american wild species.	 Berry red, small to medium size. Taste acid/sour (sometimes bitter or subtle sweetness)
Ripe Fruit (With Husk)	 Fruit calxy hairless, berry inside fills calxy often bursting it open when ripe.	 Fruit calxy nearly hairless to slightly hairy.	 Fruit calxy nearly hairless, round shaped, typically sharply 5 angled.	Fruit calxy slightly hairy, round shaped, typically sharply 5 angled with peduncle/fruit-stem sometimes slightly indented/sunk into fruit calxy.	 Fruit calxy hairless, round shaped with rounded flat top.	 Fruit calxy hairless, round shaped with rounded flat top.	 Fruit calxy typically hairless (or nearly so) and oblong with peduncle/fruit-stem typically sunk in deeply (sometimes barley sunk in or indented).	 Fruit calxy typically hairy with glandular hairs.	 Fruit calxy in various shapes, ripens to red, hairless or nearly so.
Unripe Fruit (With Husk)	 something?	 something?	 something?	 something?	 something?	 something?	 something?	 something?	 something?
Flower (Backside)	 Flower calxy hairless fat medium sized lobes that don't reflex backward.	 Flower calxy hairy with medium sized lobes that don't reflex backward.	 Flower calxy hairy (non glandular hairs) with short-narrow lobes that reflex back a little.	 Flower very calxy hairy (glandular tipped hairs, occasionally non-glandular hairs) with medium to semi-short sized lobes that reflex back a little.	 Flower calxy hairless with medium to semi-short sized lobes that don't reflex backward.	 Flower calxy hairless (or nearly so, non-glandular hairs) with medium sized lobes that don't reflex backward.	 Flower calxy sparsley hairy to nearly hairless with medium sized lobes that don't reflex backward.	 Flower claxy hairy to very hairy (Glandular tipped hairs) with typically medium sized lobes that don't reflex backward.	 Flower calxy varries from hairless to very hairy (Non glandular tipped hairs) with typically narrow lobes straight or reflexed backward.
Flower (Front)	Flower petals deep yellow with 5 distinct brownish markings (Sometimes fuzzy/radiating but not outward). Anthers blue, strongly twisted after shedding pollen.	Flower petals yellow with dark red-brown fuzzy markings in center (Often have a straight line radiating all the way to the edge). Anthers greenish-blue to purpleish, twisted after shedding pollen.	Flower petals yellow with dark red-brown markings in center that don't radiate out-ward. Anthers yellow, not twisted after shedding pollen.	Flowers petals yellow with 5 distinct dark red-brown markings in center that don't radiate out-ward. Anthers purple or purple tinged, not twisted after shedding pollen.	Flower petals pale yellow (rarely white) with no markings or small dark-yellow markings in center. Anthers blue or blue tinged, not twisted after shedding pollen.	Flower petals yellow with 5 distinct brown markings (not fuzzy/radiate much) in center. Anthers yellow or blue, not twisted after shedding pollen.	Flower petals yellow with brown markings (fuzzy/radiating) in center. Anthers yellow (rarely blue tinged), not twisted after shedding pollen.	Flower petals yellow with brown markings (fuzzy/radiating, sometimes all the to petal edge) in center. Anthers yellow (rarely blue tinged), not twisted after shedding pollen.	Flower petals white with olive green markings (fused or seperate) in center. Anthers yellow, twisted after shedding pollen.
Leaves	Broad leaf blades with rounded or narrowing base, margins toothed or simple.	Broad leaf blades with flat or heart-shaped base, margins toothed or simple.	Broad leaf blades with base lobes curved towards each other like heart shape (often with purple petiole), margins toothed.	Broad leaf blades with flat or slightly heart-shaped base (Often with green petioles), margins slightly toothed or simple.	Broadly oblong to narrow oblong leaf blades with even flat base, margins typically irregularly toothed (with sharp teeth) or sometimes simple & barley toothed (or at all).	Broadly oblong to narrow oblong leaf blades with even flat or slightly narrowing base, margins simple (not toothed).	Broadly oblong to narrow oblong leaf blades with even flat or narrowing base, margins simple (not toothed).	Wide leaf blades with uneven or heart shaped base, margins typically toothed (occasionally simple)	Wide Leaf blades with even base (or no lobes), margins simple or toothed.
Stem	Stem hairless (or nearly so).	Stem hairy/fuzzy with dense short-ish hairs.	Stem hairy with non-glandular hairs (sometimes with very short hairs, giving an almost hairless look)	Stem densely hairy with glandular or non-glandular hairs.	Stem completely hairless.	Stem hairless (or nearly so)	Stem mostly hairless or sparsly hairy.	Stem hairy with glandular hairs (Sticky)	Stem hairy to hairless (Hairs not Glandular/sticky)
Plant	Annual Taprooted	Annual or Perennial (In frost free conditions)	Annual Taprooted	Annual Taprooted	Annual Taprooted	Perennial rhizomatous	Perennial rhizomatous	Perennial rhizomatous	Perennial rhizomatous
Seedling									
Root		something?		something?	something?	something?			