

LORANTHACEAE

by

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Shrubby or rarely herbaceous half-parasites, usually more or less fleshy. Leaves simple, coriaceous, opposite, alternate or verticillate, sometimes reduced to scales. Stipules wanting. Flowers actinomorphic, hermaphrodite or unisexual, monoecious or dioecious, with slightly differentiated perianth or with sepals and petals and then 2—3-merous. Stamens as many as and opposite the tepals, more or less united with them or free; anthers usually 2-celled. Ovary inferior and usually sunken in the axis, mostly without differentiation of placenta and ovules; style one or wanting; stigma entire or lobed. Disk annular or wanting. Fruit drupaceous or baccate, with sticky pericarp. Seed one. Endosperm present. Embryo with 2 or 3—6 cotyledons.

About 1300 species in c. 40 genera, mainly in the tropics.

Phoradendron Nuttall, Journ. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia. Ser. 2. 1: 185. 1848

Suffrutescent, more or less fleshy half-parasites, usually brittle at the nodes. Leaves opposite or rarely ternate, sometimes reduced to scales, petiolate or the blade petiolately contracted. Inflorescence consisting of axillary or terminal, mostly jointed spikes. Flowers small, unisexual, monoecious or dioecious, superposed in 2, 4 or 6 series in each joint. Male flower: tepals 3, distinct, ovate or deltoid, valvate. Stamens inserted on the base of the tepals; anthers nearly sessile, 2-celled, dehiscent by subapical slits or pores. Female flower: perianth as in the male flower, adnate to the ovary and persistent in fruit. Ovary 1-locular; style short; stigma scarcely dilated, terminal. Ovule solitary. Fruit a fleshy berry. Embryo small. Endosperm copious.

Over 200 species, natives of the West Indies and tropical continental America; a few species in North America.

Phoradendron trinervium (Lam.) Gris.

GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 314. 1960 ['1964']; Duss, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 328. 1897; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 208. 1905; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 52. 1909; Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 170. 1913; Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 2: 21. 1914; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 187. 1920; BRITTON & MILLSPAUGH, Bahama Fl. 110. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 257. 1924; QUESTEL, Fl. Isl. St. Bartholomew 97. 1941; ARNOLDO, Zakflora 45. 1954; Zakflora 152. 1964; GOODING *et al.*, Fl. Barbados 129. 1965; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 243. 1972; FOURNET, Fl. Guadeloupe & Martinique 944. 1978; — *Viscum trinervium* LAMARCK, Encycl. 3: 57. 1789; — *Phoradendron verticillatum* FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 3(1): 96. 1914.

Branches pseudodichotomous; internodes up to 5 cm long, 4-angled, becoming terete below; scales (cataphylls) at the lowest internode of the branches only, sometimes with a second pair at some distance above. Leaves subpetiolate for about 3 mm; blades elliptic-obovate to elliptic-oblong, up to 5—6 × 2—2.5 cm, rounded at the apex, cuneate at the base, 3—5-veined from the base. Spikes more or less clustered, 1—2 cm long, 3—4-jointed; peduncle 4 mm long; each joint 6—8-flowered. Flowers in 4 or 4 + 2 series. Fruit a berry, oblong but becoming subglobose, orange-red to red, smooth, 3—4 mm in diam., crowned with the persistent, erect perianth.

West Indies.

On trees or shrubs, most often in the drier parts.

BOINAIRE: calcareous plateau of Montagne (Boldingh 7394, fr. Feb.).

CURAÇAO: hills of Knip Plantation (Stoffers 1136, fr. Nov.; Arnoldo 1023, fr. Jan.; 2032, fr. Ap.); calcareous top of St. Hieronymus (Boldingh 5123, fr. Nov.); near Pos Kajoeda (de Wilde 132A, fr. Jan.).

SABA: road to Windwardside (Arnoldo 698, fl. Aug.); Parish, 400 m (Boldingh 1371, fl.); Saddle (Boldingh 1660, fr. July; Suringar s.n., fr. Ap. [L]).

ST. EUSTATIUS: Signal Hill, 200 m (Boldingh 1048, st. June; 135, fl. May); between Schotsen Hoek and Little Mountains (Stoffers 3541, fl. & fr. July); Cultuurvlakte (Suringar s.n., st. Ap. [L]); Red Cliff, 600 m (Suringar s.n., flb. Ap.); White Wall (Suringar s.n., flb. Ap. [L]); slope of The Quill near Bengalen, 100 m (Boldingh 672, st. June); Cut near Fort de Windt, 50 m (Boldingh 843, st. June).

ST. MARTIN: mountain between Mont des Accords and Sentry Hill, 200—300 m (Boldingh 2888, fr. Aug.); hills at the eastern side of Cul de Sac (Boldingh 3443, fr. Sept.); Pointe Blanche, northern slope (Stoffers 2555, fl. March).