

ERYTHROXYLACEAE

by

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Glabrous trees or shrubs; flowering shoots usually conspicuously lenticellate, provided with approximate distichous, bicarinate and 2—3-aristate cataphylls at the base. Leaves alternate or opposite, petiolate. Stipules intrapetiolar, 2 or 1 to each leaf. Inflorescence consisting of axillary fascicles or the flowers solitary in the axils of the leaves or cataphylls. Flowers hermaphrodite, dimorphous, actinomorphic, 5-merous. Sepals more or less connate, persistent. Petals free, deciduous. Stamens 10, the outer row epipetalous; filaments filiform; stamens dithecioid with longitudinal dehiscence. Stamens of the brachystylous flowers all of the same length, longer than the styles; those of the dolichostylous flowers alternately shorter and longer, but always shorter than the styles. Pistil 3-carpellary; ovary 3-locular but in our species only one locule fertile; style 3, free or connate; stigma subcapitate. Fruit drupaceous, indehiscent. Seeds usually with endosperm.

Probably only one genus with more than 200 species in tropical America.

Erythroxyllum P. Browne, Civ. Nat. Hist. Jamaica 1: 278. 1756

Characters and distribution as the family.

Key to the species:

1. Leaves 0.5—3.5 cm long; drupes 4—6 mm long; short-shoots considerably flattened..... *E. rotundifolium*
Leaves 3.5—7 cm long; drupe 8 mm long; short-shoots not flattened.....
..... *E. havanense*

Erythroxyllum rotundifolium Lunan

LUNAN, Hort. Jam. 2: 116. 1814; DUSS, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 109. 1897; BRITTON & MILLSAUGH, Bahama Fl. 198. 1920; FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 4(2): 161. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 433. 1924; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 2: 371. 1951; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 380. 1972; — *Erythroxyllum brevipes* DECANOLLE, Prodr. 1: 573. 1824; GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 112. 1859 ['1864']; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 313. 1905; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 99. 1909; Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 228. 1913; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 317. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 432. 1924; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 2: 371. 1951; ARNOLDO, Zakflora 34. 1954; Zakflora 120. 1964.

Deciduous shrub or small tree, up to 6 m tall; trunk up to c. 10 cm in diam.; bark grey or light brown, smooth, becoming finely fissured; twigs strongly branched, some long and slender and many flattened short-spurs, roughened by the persistent stipules. Leaves petiolate; blades broadly obovate to obovate-oblong or roundish, rounded and slightly emarginate at the apex, cuneate to rounded at the base, 0.5—3.5 × 0.5—2 cm, thin to subcoriaceous, deep green above, pale green beneath, not areolate. Stipules acute, 1—1.5 mm long, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, acute or acuminate; petiole 2.5—5 mm long. Inflorescence consisting of loose, axillary clusters of 1—4 flowers; pedicels about equaling the petioles. Flowers fragrant, white. Calyx 1 mm long, 5-cleft to the middle; lobes triangular-ovate, acute. Petals 3 × 2 mm, oblong, obtuse, with a ligule near the middle. Stamens 10; filaments united into a tube near the base; anthers 0.2 mm long. Ovary slightly obovoid, 1.5 mm long; styles 3; 1.7 mm long; stigma capitate. Fruit an oblong, obtuse, fleshy drupe, 4—6 mm long with the calyx persistent at the base, shining dark red, becoming dry and brown.

Bahamas, Greater Antilles, Virgin Islands, St. Martin, Guadeloupe, Curaçao, and Yucatan.

CURAÇAO: Seroe Christoffel, 200 m (Arnoldo 1703, fl. Oct.; Stoffers 234, fl. Oct.); Rooi Kajuda (Arnoldo 1090, fl. Aug.); Plantation Knip (Stoffers 1183, st. Dec.).

ST. MARTIN: Cole Bay Hill (Stoffers 4501, fl. Aug.).

Erythroxylum havanense Jacq.

JACQUIN, Enum. Syst. Plant. Car. 21. 1960; DUSS, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 109. 1897; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 99. 1909; JOHNSTON, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. 34(7): 224. 1909; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 228. 1913; Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 2: 44. 1914; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 2: 372. 1951.

Deciduous shrub, up to 5 m high; twigs reddish-brown, soon terete and greyish, lenticells prominent on newly emerged growth. Leaves often on short-shoots; blades elliptic, obovate or spatulate, obtuse, rounded or emarginate at the apex, acute or obtuse at the base, 3.5—7 × 2.5—4 cm, chartaceous to somewhat coriaceous, sometimes shiny above, margins sometimes subrevolute, midvein prominent beneath, minor venation reticulate; petioles 1—3 mm long, slender. Stipules bicostate but otherwise not striate, persistent. Inflorescence consisting of loose, several-flowered clusters; pedicels 4—6 mm long, striate but not angled. Flowers fragrant, white. Calyx 1 mm long, often deeply cleft, lobes deltoid. Petals 4.5—5 mm long, ligule near the middle. Stamens 10; filaments 2.5 mm long, united into a tube near the base; anthers 0.2—0.3 mm long. Ovary obovoid, 1.5 mm long; styles somewhat expanded, 2 mm long; stigma pointed. Drupe ellipsoid, fleshy, c. 8 mm long, with the calyx persistent at the base, red, becoming brownish and sulcate in drying.

Probably a wide ranging species under a number of different names.

In dry and wet vegetation types.

Vernacular name: bracelet (Windward Group).

CURAÇAO: Seroe Christoffel (Boldingh 5008, defl. Nov.); top of Hieronymus Berg (Boldingh 5125, fr. Nov.)

SABA: road to Mary's Point (Arnoldo 832, fl. Aug.); between Mary's Point and The Bottom, 300 m (Boldingh 1478, st. July); Spring Bay Gut (Boldingh 2128, fr. July).

ST. EUSTATIUS: from Little Mountains to Venus Bay (Boldingh 958, fr. June; Stoffers 4023, fr. July); hills near Zeelandia (Stoffers 3826, st. July); slope of The Quill near Bengalen, 170 m (Stoffers 3765, fr. July); top of The Quill, 400—500 m (Boldingh 329, fr. June; 495, st. June); slope of The Quill between Glass Bottle and White Wall, 270 m (Stoffers 4083, st. Aug.).

ST. MARTIN: Mount Paradise (Le Gallo 888, st.); Milldrum Hill (Boldingh 3155, st. Sept.; 3314, st. Sept.).