

FLORA DA RESERVA DUCKE, AMAZONAS, BRASIL: THURNIACEAE

Paul J. M. Maas¹ & Hiltje Maas¹

Thurniaceae Engl., Syllabus (ed. 5) 94. Jul. 1907. *Nom. cons.*

Kubitzki, K. 1998. Thurniaceae. In K. Kubitzki (ed.). The families and genera of vascular plants 4: 455-456. Springer-Verlag. Berlin.

Large aquatic rhizomatous **herbs**. **Leaves** parallel-veined, simple, all basal, arranged in 2-3 rows, V- or M-shaped in cross section. **Inflorescence** a globose, many-flowered, terminal head, subtended by several spreading to reflexed, leafy bracts. Peduncle triangular in cross section, inflorescence shorter than the leaves. **Flowers** actinomorphic, tubular. **Tepals** 6. **Stamens** 6, exceeding the tepals. Ovary superior, 3-locular, style 1, stigmas 3, filiform, placentation axile, ovules 1-several per locule. **Fruit** a 3-cornered, loculicidal capsule, 3-seed. Seeds fusiform with a spike-like process at each end densely covered with recurved hairs.

A family with one genus, *Thurnia*, and three species, occurring in the Guianas, and adjacent Amazon region. Represented in the Reserva Ducke by one species only.

An aquatic family resembling Cyperaceae.

1. *Thurnia sphaerocephala* (Rudge) Hook. f., in Hooker's Icon. Pl. 1407. 1883; Polak, Florula of the herbs of Mabura Hill, Guyana 102. 7-10. fig. 30. 1995; Mori *et al.*, Vascular Plants of Central French Guiana 1: 367. t. 163. 1997.

Mnasium sphaerocephalum Rudge, Pl. Guian. 12. t. 12. 1805.

Aquatic **herbs**, 0.5-1.5 m high. **Leaves** linear, 0.7-1.5 m long, 2-3.5 cm wide, stiff, ending in a long tail-like apex, margin finely serrate. **Inflorescence** 3-6 cm in diam., subtended by 3-9 leafy bracts 5-30 cm long, 2-3 cm wide. **Flowers** white. Tepals 6, spatulate, 10-30 mm long, to 1 mm wide. Stamens 6, much exceeding the tepals. **Fruit** 10-15 mm long. Seeds 3, purplish or brownish, 5-8 mm long.

In the Guianas and Amazonian Brazil.

Occurring in or along creeks, on white sand; seeds are dispersed by fish.

Flowering and fruiting in January, March, June and September.

18.I.1995 (fr) *Costa, M. A. S. & Nascimento, J. R.* 108 (INPAU); 12.III.1977 (fl) *Monteiro, O. P. & Lisboa, R.* 1338 (INPA); 10.IX.1987 (fr) *Pruski, J. F. et al.* 3202 (INPAMG SPU); 3.VI.1993 (fl, fr) *Ribeiro, J. E. L. S. et al.* 805 (INPAU).

