

SUMMARY

Meriania aracaensis Wurdack is described from collections on Serra Aracá, Amazonas, Brazil.

Meriania aracaensis Wurdack, sp. nov.

Meriania ornatae Wurdack affinis, ramulorum pubescentia brevioris foliis petalisque minoribus differt.

Shrub 1-1.2 m, the young branchlets, petioles adaxially, inflorescence, and hypanthia densely setulose with barbellate hairs 1-1.5(-2) mm long. Leaf blades 8-12 cm long, 4-8 cm wide, elliptic-ovate, blunt-acute to short-acuminate at the apex, cordulate 3-7 mm at the base, rigid and entire, above sparsely and caducously roughened-setulose, below moderately puberulous with stellulate-dendritic hairs 0.1-0.15 mm diam, 5-nerved with the secondary veins 3-6 mm apart and the obscure venules laxly (1-2 mm) reticulate; petioles 1-2(-3) cm long. Inflorescence 3-7-flowered and congested, the peduncle 1-4 cm long, the caducous puberulous bracteoles 5-6 mm long and 1-1.5 mm wide; flowers 5-merous, the thick pedicels 3-4 mm long. Hypanthium 9.5 mm long, terete; calyx tube 3.5 mm long, the remote interior lobes 1.8-2 mm long and equaled by the thick external teeth. Petals pink to purple, 18-19.5 mm long, 12.5-13 mm wide, obovate with a truncate or slightly emarginate apex, minutely ciliolate but otherwise glabrous. Stamens dimorphic, glabrous, with subulate anthers. Large stamens: filaments 14-15 mm long; thecae 14-14.5 mm long and 1 mm wide, with a dorsally inclined pore 0.15 mm diam; dorso-basal connective spur 0.7-0.8 mm long, linear, blunt; ascending appendage 4.6-5 mm long, bluntly bilobulate at the apex. Small stamens: filaments 16-16.3 mm long; thecae 9 mm long and 1.1 mm wide, with a ventrally inclined pore 0.15 mm diam; dorso-basal connective spur 0.2 mm long, blunt; ascending appendage 3.2 mm long, rounded at the apex. Stigma punctiform; style glabrous, 17 mm long, 0.4-0.1 mm diam; ovary 3-celled and glabrous, ca 5 mm long, truncate at the apex.

TYPE: Brazil. Amazonas: Município de Barcellos, savanna with sandy soil, SE part of Serra Norte, Serra Aracá, 0°51'N, 63°22'W, elev. 1150-1250 m, 12 Feb 1985, I. L. Amaral 1513 (INPA, holotype; INPA, NY, US, isotypes).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL. Brazil. Amazonas: south side of North Mountain, Serra Aracá,

(*) Contribution of "Projeto Flora Amazônica".

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elev. 1200 m, 11 Feb 1984, Prance, Amaral, Pipoly, Tavares, da Silva, da Mota & Cress 28935 (INPA, NY, US).

Meriania ornata has nodal and young stem pubescence 4-6 mm long, petioles 7-11 cm long, blades 13-23 cm long and 6-13 cm wide, and petals 31-35 mm long; in the small stamens, the dorso-basal connective spur is subulate and 1 mm long and the ascending appendage is only 2 mm long. *Meriania sclerophylla* (Naud.) Triana has foliar pubescence similar to that of *M. aracaensis*, but sessile leaves, smaller flowers, and glandular-setulose calyx lobes. The other species of this alliance have different vegetative pubescence.

RESUMO

Uma espécie de Melastomataceae, *Meriania aracaensis* Wurdack, da Serra Aracã (Amazonas) é descrita como nova.

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