

FLORA DA RESERVA DUCKE, AMAZONAS, BRASIL: STRELITZIACEAE

Paul J. M. Maas¹ & Hiltje Maas¹

Strelitziaceae Hutch., Fam. Fl. Pl. 2: 72. 1934.

Kress, W. J. & D. E. Stone. 1993. Morphology and floral biology of *Phenakospermum* (Strelitziaceae), an arborescent herb of the Neotropics. *Biotropica* 25 (3): 290-300.

Maas, P. J. M. 1985. Musaceae. In A. R. A. Görts-van Rijn (ed.), Fl. Guianas 1: 21-22.

The family Strelitziaceae is different from the other related families (Costaceae, Heliconiaceae, Marantaceae, and Zingiberaceae) by its enormous dimensions (leaves up to 3 m long, bracts up to 45 cm long). According to Kress & Stone (1993) its flowers are pollinated by bats, a fact unique for any of the neotropical representatives of the above-mentioned families, which are, as far as known, either bee- or hummingbird-pollinated.

One monotypic genus, *Phenakospermum*, occurring throughout tropical South America.

1. *Phenakospermum guyannense* (Rich.) Endl. ex Miq., Bot. Zeitung (Berlin) 3: 345. 1845; Maas, P. J. M. in A. R. A. Görts-van Rijn (ed.), Fl. Guianas 1: 22. f. 6. 1985.

Urania guyannensis Rich., Nova Acta Phys. Med. Acad. Caes. Leop. Carol. Nat. Cur. 15. Suppl. 21. 1831.

Tree-like, rhizomatous **herbs**, up to 12 m tall, trunk up to 3 m tall, c. 10 cm in diam. **Leaves** distichous. Petiole 1-1.5 m long,

glaucous. Lamina elliptic to oblong to narrowly so, up to 3 m long, 50-75 cm wide, both sides glabrous, base obtuse to cordate, apex acute to obtuse, often many times horizontally split. **Inflorescence** a terminal, erect thyrse up to 3 m long, surpassing the leaves, glaucous throughout. Peduncle c. 1.5 m long, rachis green, to 6 cm thick. Bracts 3-8, green to greenish yellow, coriaceous, very deeply boat-shaped, 30-45 cm long, 7-16 cm high. Bracteoles greenish white, 27-35 cm long. **Flowers** creamy white. Tepals 6, free, up to 17 cm long, with green margins. Stamens five, 11-15 cm long. Ovary inferior, 3-locular, placentation axile, ovules many in each locule. **Fruit** a woody capsule, 10-20 cm long. Seeds many, black, 7-11 mm long, aril large, fibrous, orange.

In non-inundated forest, on clayey soil.

Flowering and fruiting period unknown.

Common in the Ducke Reserve, but not yet collected!

In Suriname, leaves of this species are used for thatching roofs (Maas 1985).

Artigo recebido em 09/2004. Aceito para publicação em 04/2005.

¹Projectgroep Herbarium, Institute of Systematic Botany, Heidelberglaan 2, 3584 CS Utrecht, The Netherlands.

