

FLORA DA RESERVA DUCKE, AMAZONAS, BRASIL: CYPERACEAE

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Annual or perennial, rhizomatous to stoloniferous **herbs**. Stems (culms) simple, often 3-sided. **Leaves** basal and/or cauline, often 3-ranked, comprising blade and sheath, sometimes sheath only present; blade usually linear, grass-like, sometimes broader and constricted into a pseudopetiole below; sheath open or closed; ligule often present, sometimes on opposite side to blade. Involucral bracts 1-several, leaf-like or glume-like. Inflorescence unbranched to simply, compoundly or decomponently branched and umbel-like, or paniculate, comprising 1-many ultimate inflorescence units (spikelets or spicoids). **Spikelets** comprising 1-many glumes, the glumes membranous to coriaceous, spirally arranged or 2-ranked, each subtending a single bisexual or unisexual flower or sterile, the spikelet sometimes reduced to a single flower and aggregated into spikes; spicoids (tribe Hypolytrae only) comprising a terminal female flower, 2–12 membranous scale-like floral bracts on a much reduced axis, the lowest 2 bracts opposite and keeled, some of the bracts subtending a male flower, the spicoid subtended and usually hidden by a glume-like spicoid bract, these spirally arranged and aggregated into spikelet-like spikes. **Perianth** absent or reduced to bristles or scale-like segments. Stamens 1–3; anthers basifixed. Stigmas 2–3, rarely style undivided, the base

sometimes persistent and variously shaped in nutlet. Ovary 2–3-carpellate, unilocular, with a single ovule. **Nutlets** usually a hard, a 2 or 3-sided nutlet, rarely with a succulent or corky exocarp, surface smooth or variously minutely patterned, sometimes partially or completely enclosed by an enlarged basal prophyll (utricle), sometimes with a cup-like hypogynous disk at base.

Cyperaceae comprises *ca.* 104 genera and *ca.* 5000 species (Goetghebeur 1998). The family is nearly cosmopolitan but does not occur in Antarctica.

Cyperaceae can be recognised by the minute bisexual or unisexual flowers with the perianth reduced to small bristles or blades or absent, the flowers subtended by small bracts (glumes or floral bracts) these being aggregated into inflorescence units (spikelets and spicoids) which in turn are aggregated larger partial and full inflorescences. The fruit is a small, hard, 1-seeded nutlet.

The closest relatives to Cyperaceae are Juncaceae and Thurniaceae in the order Cyperales (Dahlgren *et al.* 1985, Simpson 1995). Gramineae, which shares some characteristics of Cyperaceae such as wind pollination and reduced floral structure, has often been placed near to Cyperaceae, but is now thought to be more distantly related (Linder & Kellogg 1995, Simpson 1995).

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Inflorescence structure in Cyperaceae is difficult to interpret due to its highly reduced nature. Consequently, the terminology used in describing parts of the inflorescence is confusing with several terms often being applied to the same structure. In addition, several terms are also used in the Poaceae but they do not always relate to the same structure in both families. In this account an attempt has been to keep terminology as simple as possible. Definitions of the terms used are given in the Glossary below.

For accurate identification of Cyperaceae good fruiting material should be used wherever possible. Indeed this is essential in certain genera, such as *Fimbristylis* and *Scleria*. It is also important to have underground parts as these may be diagnostic for some species. Care is needed when counting the number of stigmas as these are easily broken off. Several should be observed from the same specimen. Care is also needed when counting the stamens. Anthers break off easily leaving the filaments partially hidden within the glumes. Always check that filaments are present.

Glossary

Terms which are italicised within each definition are themselves defined elsewhere in the Glossary.

Acuminate. Gradually narrowed to a long fine point.

Acute. Abruptly narrowed to a short point.

Biconvex. Two-sided, the sides convex.

Cancellate. Having the appearance of a lattice.

Capitate. Head-like inflorescence, without any apparent branching.

Compound. Applied to an inflorescence or partial inflorescence where there are two orders of branching, i.e. primary and secondary.

Compressed-trigonous. Three-sided, but distinctly flattened and thus appearing to be two-sided.

Conical. Cone-shaped, being wider at the base than the apex; here it is used as the 3-dimensional equivalent of lanceolate.

Connective. Tissue connecting the pollen sacs of an anther. Sometimes it extends beyond the apex of the pollen sacs to form a prominent tip to the anther.

Contraligule. Membranous, ligule-like structure at the apex of the leaf-sheath on the side of the culm facing away from the leaf-blade.

Coriaceous. Having a leathery texture.

Culm. Stem supporting the inflorescence.

Cylindric. Cylinder-shaped.

Decomound. Applied to an inflorescence or partial inflorescence where there are three or more orders of branching, i.e., primary, secondary and tertiary.

Deltoid. Triangular in outline.

Disk. Three-lobed structure occurring at the base of the nutlet in *Scleria*, *Calyptrocarya* and *Becquerelia*. In some species it may be indistinct.

Filiform. Thread-like.

Fimbriate. With a margin divided into a fringe.

Floral bract. Membranous scale-like structure in the spicoid-type inflorescence unit each of which subtends a male flower comprising a single stamen only. The lowest two floral bracts are usually have a keel and are opposite.

Globose. Rounded, resembling a ball.

Glume. Membranous to coriaceous scale-like structure subtending individual flowers.

Hyaline. Transparent and usually colourless.

Imbricate. Tightly overlapping.

Involucral bract. Bract or bracts occurring at the point where the inflorescence arises from the culm. Vary from being leaf-like to glume-like or setaceous.

Keel. Used here for the midrib of a glume or floral bract.

Lanceolate. Lance-shaped, i.e. broadest below the middle and gradually tapering above.

Ligule. Membranous tissue or fringe of hairs occurring at the apex of the leaf sheath on the inner side at the point where it joins the leaf-blade.

Mucronate. Terminating in a short stiff point.

Nutlet. Hardened, usually minute, one-seeded fruit, the surface of which may be smooth to variously patterned and a diagnostic character for many species. Often called an achene in literature on Cyperaceae.

Ob. (prefix) Used to indicate inversion of a shape, e.g. obdeltoid, obovoid, oblanceolate.

Obtuse. Blunt.

Orbicular. Circular.

Ovate. Egg-shaped in two-dimensional outline.

Ovoid. Egg-shaped in three dimensions.

Paniculate. Inflorescence partial inflorescences arising at intervals along the main inflorescence axis.

Partial inflorescence. Primary branches of an inflorescence.

Perianth segments. Small bristle-like or scale-like structures at the base of the nutlet. Presumed to be the remnants of a fully developed perianth.

Plicate. Folded longitudinally.

Prophyll. Two-keeled structure at the base of a branch within an inflorescence. It may be glume-like or tubular.

Puncticulate. Dotted.

Reticulate. Forming a network.

Retorse. Turned backwards.

Rhizome. Underground stem which may be short, often giving the plant a tufted habit, or long-creeping.

Rugose. Wrinkled.

Setaceous. Bristle-like.

Simple. Applied to an inflorescence or partial inflorescence where there is only order of branching, i.e. primary branching.

Spicoid. The ultimate inflorescence unit in Cyperaceae Tribe Hypolytrae. Has a much reduced axis and appears flower-like. It comprises 2-6 floral bracts each subtending a male flower. The whole structure is terminated by a female flower.

Spicoid bract. A glume-like bract which subtends the spicoid.

Spike. An aggregation of spikelets or spicoids; sometimes the whole structure is similar in appearance to a spikelet (in *Mapania* and *Hypolytrum*).

Spikelet. The ultimate inflorescence unit in most genera of Cyperaceae. Has an elongated or reduced axis with 1-many glumes, each glume subtending a bisexual or unisexual flower.

Stolon. In Cyperaceae this term is applied to a thin underground branch arising from the rhizome or base of the culm. Each stolon terminates in an aerial shoot.

Style-base. A variously-shaped portion at the base of the style which is persistent on the mature nutlet in some genera.

Terete. Circular in cross-section.

Tomentose. Thickly covered with short hairs.

Trigonous. Three-sided, with the margins blunt and rounded. Applied here to the culm and nutlet.

Triquetrous. Three-sided with the margins acute. Applied here to the culm and nutlet.

Umbel-like. Inflorescence in which the primary branches more-or-less arise from the same point, the inflorescence being subtended by 1-several involucre bracts.

Verruculose. Covered with small wart-like outgrowths.

Key to the genera of Cyperaceae in Reserva Ducke

1. Inflorescence comprising small units (spicoids) with 2 opposite, keeled, often ciliate scales (floral bracts) at the base often enclosing a further 2–6 scales, each unit subtended and usually hidden or partially hidden by a glume-like bract.
 2. Inflorescence umbel-like; stamens 7–8 per spicoid 4. *Diplasia*
 2. Inflorescence paniculate or capitate; stamens 1–3 per spicoid
 3. Inflorescence capitate; spicoids with 4–6 floral bracts 10. *Mapania*
 3. Inflorescence paniculate; spicoids with 2(–3) floral bracts 8. *Hypolytrum*
1. Inflorescence various but not as above.
 4. All flowers unisexual.
 5. Female spikelets subtended at base by 3 sterile spikelets; nutlet very tightly enclosed by a delicate, membranous sac 2. *Calyptracarya*
 5. Female spikelets without sterile spikelets at base; nutlet not enclosed by a membranous sac.
 6. Contraligule present in leaf sheath apex; disk at base of nutlet not spongy 13. *Scleria*
 6. Contraligule absent; disk at base of nutlet spongy 1. *Becquerelia*
 4. At least some flowers bisexual.
 7. Glumes increasing in length towards the apex of the spikelet.
 8. Inflorescence paniculate (in Ducke species); perianth segments scabrid below, ciliate or fimbriate above 11. *Pleurostachys*
 8. Inflorescence capitate (in Ducke species); perianth segments scabrid or rarely smooth 12. *Rhynchospora*
 7. Glumes \pm equal in length (but often with 1–3 smaller glumes at base of spikelet).
 9. Perianth segments present.
 10. Leaves reduced to bladeless sheaths; inflorescence a single spikelet 5. *Eleocharis*
 10. Leaf blades present; inflorescence with more than one spikelet 7. *Fuirena*
 9. Perianth segments absent.
 11. Glumes spirally arranged; style jointed with ovary and clearly demarcated from it 6. *Fimbristylis*
 11. Glumes 2-ranked; style continuous with ovary and not demarcated from it.
 12. Stigmas 2; nutlet 2-sided 9. *Kyllinga*
 12. Stigmas 3; nutlet 3-sided 3. *Cyperus*

1. *Becquerelia*

Perennial **herbs**; rhizomatous or rarely stoloniferous. Culms triquetrous. **Leaves** basal and cauline, 3-ranked; ligule 0; contraligule absent. Involucral bracts leaf-like. **Inflorescence** paniculate; partial inflorescences corymbose or rarely capitate. **Spikelets** unisexual; male spikelets comprising *ca.* 5 glumes, the lower subtending a flower; female spikelets comprising *ca.* 10 sterile glumes and a single terminal flower. Perianth segments 0. Stamens 1 per flower. Stigmas 3. **Nutlets** depressed-globose, smooth, rugulose or tuberculate with a spongy cup-like disk at base.

Genus of five species, central and South America.

1.1 *Becquerelia cymosa* subsp. *merkeliana* (Nees) T. Koyama, Mem. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 17(1): 29. 1967.

Becquerelia merkeliana Nees, in Mart., Fl. bras. 2(1): 191. 1842.

Perennial. Culm 39 cm long, 6.5 mm wide, smooth. **Leaves:** blade linear, 68 cm long, 1.1–1.4 cm wide, gradually narrowed, acuminate, flat to v-shaped in cross-section; sheath 13–16 cm long, green to pale brown. Involucral bracts 7–43 cm long, the lowest bract longest. **Inflorescence** 40 × 5.5 cm; nodes 6, each subtending 1–2 corymbose partial inflorescences; partial inflorescences 3–4 × 4 cm, compound; primary branches 0.5–2 cm long; secondary branches 0.2–1 cm long, terminating in clusters of several

spikelets. Male spikelets 1–2 below female spikelets, narrowly lanceolate, 3–3.5 × 0.2 mm. Female spikelets ovate, 3–5–4.1 × 1.3–1.5 mm. Anthers 1 mm long. **Nutlets** 2 × 1.8–2 mm, whitish, rugulose-reticulate.

Tropical South America.

17.IX.1958 (fl) *Coêlho, D.* 7 (INPA).

Additional specimen examined: BRAZIL. AMAZONAS: Igarapé de Tarumã *Assunção, P. A. C. L.* 383 (INPA); Boa Vista road, 48 km N of Manaus, 21.IX.1980 *Lowe 3996* (INPA K).

2. *Calyptrocarya*

Perennial **herbs**; rhizomatous or stoloniferous. Culms trigonous to triquetrous. **Leaves** basal and cauline, 3-ranked; ligule 0, contraligule sometimes present. Involucral bracts leaf-like. **Inflorescence** capitate or cymose-paniculate with distant nodes each subtending a single partial inflorescence; partial inflorescence umbel-like, each with several rayed globose spikelet clusters. Spikelets unisexual or sterile. Male spikelets comprising several glumes. Female spikelets comprising a single, apparently terminal female flower, very tightly enclosed by a delicate, membranous sac. Sterile spikelets lateral, in 3 at the base of the female spikelet, each comprising a few empty glumes, the spikelets subtended by 3 glume-like bracteoles. Perianth segments 0. Stamen 1 per male flower. Stigmas 2–3. **Nutlets** 2-sided to terete-trigonous, surface bony, white.

Genus of eight species, central and South America.

Key to the species of *Calyptrocarya* in Reserva Ducke

- 1. Spikelet clusters up to 3 mm wide; nutlets up to 1.5 mm wide 2. *C. glomerulata*
- 1. Spikelet clusters 5 mm or more wide; nutlets 1.8 mm or more wide.
 - 2. Leaf blade abruptly narrowed at apex, narrowed into a pseudopetiole towards base 1. *C. bicolor*
 - 2. Leaf blade gradually narrowed at apex, not narrowed into a pseudopetiole towards base 3. *C. poepiggiana*

2.1 *Calyptracarya bicolor* (H. Pfeiff.) T. Koyama, Mem. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 17(1): 43. 1967.

Becquerelia bicolor H. Pfeiff., Fedde, Repert. 18: 381. 1922.

Perennial. Rhizome short-creeping. Culms 3–12 cm long, 1–1.4 mm wide, triquetrous, scabrid towards apex. **Leaves:** blade linear, linear-elliptic, 7–20 cm long, 5–12 mm wide, abruptly narrowed at apex, acute, flat, green above, usually mid- to dark reddish below, narrowed below into a pseudopetiole towards base; sheath 1–4 cm long, dark reddish. Lowest involucre bract up to 17 cm long, upper bracts shorter. **Inflorescence** cymose-paniculate, 4–14 cm long, nodes 3–4; partial inflorescence with rays 0.5–2 cm long. Spikelet clusters 4–6 × 5–7 mm. **Nutlets** 2-sided, broadly obovate, 1.8–2 × 1.8–2 mm.

Tropical South America.

Forest.

11.II.1995 (fr) *Costa, M. A. S. et al. 149* (INPA); 13.V.1996 (fl) *Costa, M. A. S. et al. 512* (INPA); 6.VI.1988 (fl) *Santos, J. L. 952* (INPA KMG MONY RB SP); 4.VI.1995 (fl) *Sothers, C. A. 495* (INPA); 28.IV.1994 (fl) *Vicentini, A. et al. 520* (INPA); 13.V.1996 (fl) *Costa, M. A. S. et al. 512* (INPA); 6.VI.1988 (fl) *Santos, J. L. 952* (INPA KMG MONY RB SP); 4.VI.1995 (fl) *Sothers, C. A. 495* (INPA); 28.IV.1994 (fl) *Vicentini, A. et al. 520* (INPA).

Calyptracarya bicolor is distinguished by having the leaf blade narrowed into a pseudopetiole towards its base and a distinct reddish coloration to the undersides of the leaves.

2.2 *Calyptracarya glomerulata* (Brongn.) Urb., Symb. Ant. 2(1): 169. 1900.

Becquerelia glomerulata Brongn., in Duperry, Voy. Coq. 2: 163. 1829.

Calyptracarya angustifolia Lindl. & Nees ex Kunth, Enum. Pl. 2: 364. 1837.

Calyptracarya fragifera sensu Kunth, Enum. Pl. 2: 364. 1837 *non* (Rudge) Nees.

Calyptracarya intermedia C.B. Clarke, Kew Bull. Add. Ser. 8: 66, 135. 1908.

Perennial. Rhizome short. Culms tufted, 7.5–9 cm long, 0.8–1 mm wide, triquetrous. **Leaves:** blade narrowly linear, up to 21 cm long, 2–3 mm wide, gradually acuminate at

apex, flat, green above, green or brownish below; sheath 4–6.5 cm long, reddish-brown. Lowest involucre bract 20 cm long, upper bracts shorter. **Inflorescence** cymose-paniculate, 7–8 cm long, nodes 3–4; partial inflorescence with rays 0.5–0.7 cm long. Spikelet clusters 2 × 2–3 mm. **Nutlets** 2-sided, broadly obovate, 1–1.5 × 1.5 mm.

Southern Mexico to Brazil.

Forest.

6.VII.1993 (fl) *Ribeiro, J. E. L. S. et al. 899* (INPA KNY).

Calyptracarya glomerulata can be recognised by its linear, gradually narrowed leaves, small spikelet clusters and small nutlets.

2.3 *Calyptracarya poepiggiana* Kunth, Enum. Pl. 2: 364. 1837.

Calyptracarya martii Nees, in Mart., Fl. bras. 2(1): 195. 1842.

Perennial. Rhizome short-creeping. Culms 3–12 cm long, 0.8–0.9 mm wide, triquetrous, scabrid towards apex. **Leaves:** blade narrowly linear, 11–40 cm long, 5–7 mm wide, gradually narrowed at apex, acute, flat, green above, usually mid- to dark reddish below, not narrowed into a pseudopetiole towards base; sheath 1–4 cm long, dark reddish. Lowest involucre bract up to 43 cm long, upper bracts shorter. **Inflorescence** cymose-paniculate, 7–15 cm long; nodes 3–4; partial inflorescence with rays 0.8–3.3 cm long. Spikelet clusters 4–6 × 5–6 mm. **Nutlets** 2-sided, broadly obovate, 2 mm × 1.8 mm.

Tropical South America, particularly the tropical Andean region.

Forest.

14.II.1996 (fr) *Campos, M. T. V. A. et al. 489* (INPA KMG NY SP).

Calyptracarya poepiggiana also has linear, gradually narrowed leaves, but the spikelet clusters and nutlets are similar to *C. bicolor*.

3. *Cyperus*

Annual or perennial **herbs**; rhizomatous or stoloniferous. Culms terete to trigonous. **Leaves** basal, 3-ranked, rarely without blade;

ligule 0. Involucral bracts leaf-like. **Inflorescence** terminal, umbel-like and 1–3-times branched, with the ultimate branches terminating in 1 or more spikes or finger-like cluster of spikelets, more rarely spikes or spikelet clusters sessile or inflorescence capitate. Spikelets linear to oblong or elliptic, laterally flattened to subterete; axis straight or zigzag, deciduous or persistent. Glumes ± equal in length, 2-ranked, deciduous

or persistent, sides membranous to chartaceous or coriaceous, nerves 0-several, keel acute to rounded. **Flowers** bisexual. Perianth segments 0. Stamens 1–3. Stigmas (1–)3; style continuous with ovary. **Nutlets** usually 3-sided, trigonous, sometimes triquetrous or dorsiventrally compressed.

About 500 species, ± cosmopolitan, but particularly abundant in the tropics.

Key to the species of *Cyperus* in Reserva Ducke

1. Spikelets in finger-like clusters; glumes ovate-orbicular 1. *C. laxus*
1. Spikelets aggregated into spikes; glumes ovate to lanceolate.
 2. Culms papillose; spikelets dark coppery brown; nutlets 1.5 mm long 2. *C. ligularis*
 2. Culms smooth or scabrid; spikelets greenish, yellowish or whitish; nutlets up to 1.1 mm long
 3. Culms smooth; spikelets whitish, in dense clusters within the spike 3. *C. luzulae*
 3. Culms smooth to retrorsely scabrid; spikelets greenish or yellowish in loose clusters within the spike 4. *C. surinamensis*

3.1 *Cyperus laxus* Lam., Ill. Gen. 1: 146. 1791; J. Raynal, Adansonia 2, 17(3): 277. 1978.

C. diffusus Vahl, Enum. Pl. 2: 321. 1805.

Perennial. Rhizome short. Culms ± tufted, 36 cm long, 1.7–1.9 mm wide, trigonous to subtriquetrous, smooth. **Leaves:** blade linear, 15–30 cm long, 5–5.4 mm wide, abruptly acute, flattish to plicate; sheath 4 cm long, pale green to rusty or purplish brown. Involucral bracts 4–12, unequal, the longest up to 50 cm. **Inflorescence** umbel-like, 1–2 times branched; primary branches 10–12, 2–12 cm long; secondary branches 0.5–1.5 cm long. Spikelets in open finger-like clusters of (1–)2–9, oblong, 3–11 × 1.5–2.5 mm. Glumes 6–20 per spikelet, ovate-orbicular, 1.5–2 × 1.5–2 mm, obtuse, mucronate, awn 0.2–0.5 mm long, sides membranous, indistinctly nerved, greenish tinged with pale or reddish-brown, keel greenish. Stamens 3; anthers 0.8–1 mm long. Stigmas 3. **Nutlets** ellipsoid, trigonous, 1.2–1.5 × 0.7–0.8 mm, pale brown becoming blackish brown, indistinctly punctulate.

Pantropical.

Forest or forest margins.

26.IV.1981 (fl) *Lowe, J. 4105* (INPA).

Additional specimens examined: BRAZIL. RORAIMA: Boa Vista, Reserva Ecologica de Maracá

7.III.1987 *Harley 24735* (K); AMAZONAS: Manaus, near Praia Dourada 23.VII.1980 *Lowe 3949* (INPA, K).

Cyperus laxus is distinguished by spikelets in finger-like clusters and ovate-orbicular glumes.

3.2 *Cyperus ligularis* L., Syst. Nat 10, 2: 867. 1759; Nees in Mart., Fl. bras. 2(1): 42. 1842; Kük. in Engl., Pflanzenr. 4(20), 101 Heft: 474. 1936.

Mariscus ligularis (L.) Urb., Symb. Antill. 2(1): 165. 1900.

Perennial. Rhizome short. Culms ± tufted 50–100 cm long, 4–5 mm wide, trigonous, papillose. **Leaves:** blade linear, up to 80 cm long, 5–10 mm wide, long-acuminate, flattish to folded; sheath 12–19 cm long, mid-brown to dark reddish-brown. Involucral bracts 8, unequal, the longest up to 65 cm long. **Inflorescence** umbel-like, 1(–2)-times branched; primary branches up to 10, 1–6 cm long; secondary branches (when developed) up to 3 cm long. Spikes 4–7 per inflorescence branch, cylindric to subglobose, 1.1–3.5 cm long, the uppermost spike longest. Spikelets numerous, densely crowded, oblong-elliptic, 3–7 × 1–2.5 mm, dark coppery brown. Glumes 4–7 per spikelet, ovate, 2–

2.5 mm long, 1–2 mm wide, acute, very shortly mucronate, sides membranous, 4–5-nerved, dark brown with reddish tinge, keel greenish or brown. Stamens 3; anthers 0.5 mm long. Stigmas 3. **Nutlets** ellipsoid, trigonous, 1.5 × 0.6 mm, dark purplish brown, punctulate.

Florida, W. Indies, tropical America, Africa, Indian Ocean islands.

Disturbed areas in forest.

26.X.1977 *Keel & Balick 203* (KNY); 14.XII.1966 (fl) *Prance, G. T. et al. 3637* (INPA K NY).

Additional specimens examined: BRAZIL. AMAZONAS: Manaus, Praia Dourada 23.V.1981 *Lowe 4193* (K); Manaus-Itacoatiara road, km 63 17.XII.1968 *Prance et al. 9058* (K).

Cyperus ligularis has papillose culms and spikes comprising numerous dark coppery brown spikelets.

3.3 *Cyperus luzulae* (L.) Retz., Obs. Bot. 4: 11. 1786; Kük. in Engl., Pflanzenr. 4(20), 101 Heft: 170. 1936.

Scirpus luzulae L., Syst. Nat. 10, 2: 868. 1759.

Perennial. Rhizome short. Culms tufted, 28–51 cm long, 1.6–2.8 mm wide, trigonous, smooth. **Leaves:** blade linear, 20–30 cm long, 3.5–4.5 mm wide, gradually acuminate, flattish to folded; sheath 3–7.5 cm long, pale to mid-brown. Involucral bracts 5–10, unequal, the longest up to 36 cm. **Inflorescence** umbel-like, once-branched; primary branches 6–11, 1.1–5 cm long. Spike 1 per inflorescence branch, ovoid to ovoid-cylindric, 0.8–1.5 cm long. Spikelets in numerous, densely crowded clusters within spike, ovate, 2–4.5 × 1–2 mm, whitish. Glumes 6–20 per spikelet, deciduous, lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, 1.5–2 × 0.4–0.8 mm, obtuse, mucronulate, sides membranous, 1–2-nerved, whitish, keel similar. Stamen 1; anther 0.7 mm long. Stigmas 3. **Nutlets** narrowly oblong-ellipsoid, trigonous to subterete, 1–1.1 × 0.3 mm, brown to blackish, ± smooth.

Subtropical and tropical America.

Open, damp places.

17.I.1995 (fl) *Costa, M. A. S. et al. 99* (INPA K MG MONY R RB SP U); 8.VI.1995 (fl) *Costa, M. A. S. & Silva, C. F. 302* (BM G INPA K MBM MG UB UEC US); 29.XI.1976 (fl) *Mendonça, S. & Shima, D. 24* (INPA).

Additional specimens examined: BRAZIL. AMAZONAS: Boa Vista road, 48 km N of Manaus 21.IX.1980 *Lowe 3995* (K); road ZF2, 14 km off Boa Vista road, 62 km NNW of Manaus 21.VI.1981 *Lowe 4316* (K); Itacoatiara, 275 km E of Manaus 9.VI.1981 *Lowe 4257* (K).

Cyperus luzulae is recognisable by its numerous whitish spikelets occurring in densely crowded clusters in each spike.

3.4 *Cyperus surinamensis* Rottb., Descr. Pl. Rar.: 20. 1772; Nees in Mart., Fl. bras. 2(1): 21. 1842; Kük. in Engl., Pflanzenr. 4(20), 101 Heft: 174. 1936.

Annual or perennial. Rhizome short. Culms tufted, 26–43 cm long, 1.2–1.5 mm wide, trigonous to subterete, smooth to retrorsely scabrid. **Leaves:** blade linear, 13–30 cm long, 1.3–2.5 mm wide, gradually acuminate, folded; sheath 3–7 cm long, greenish to pale brown. Involucral bracts 5, unequal, the longest 14–18 cm long. **Inflorescence** umbel-like, 1–2-times branched; primary branches 6–12, 0.7–4 cm long; secondary branches when present 0.3–0.6 cm long. Spikes half-globose to ± globose, 0.6–0.8 × 0.8–1 cm. Spikelets 8–40 per spike, in loose clusters, lanceolate to linear-oblong, 5–7 × 1.7–1.8 mm, greenish to yellowish. Glumes 15–60 per spikelet, deciduous, lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, 1.3–1.5 × 0.2–0.3 mm, obtuse to acute, mucronulate, sides membranous, 1–2-nerved, greenish to yellowish, keel similar. Stamen 1; anther 0.5 mm long. Stigmas 3. **Nutlets** narrowly ellipsoid, 0.8 × 0.2–0.3 mm, mid-brown, minutely papillose.

Subtropical and tropical America.

Moist, open areas.

8.VI.1995 (fr) *Costa, M. A. S. & Silva, C. F. 301* (INPA K MG MONY R RB SP U).

Additional specimen examined: BRAZIL. AMAZONAS: Manaus, 8 Tr. A, Jardim Haydea 3.IV.1981 *Lowe 4064* (K).

Cyperus surinamensis is closely related to *C. luzulae* but differs in often having scabrid culms and greenish to yellowish spikelets that are in looser clusters within the spikes.

4. *Diplasia*

Robust, rhizomatous perennial **herbs**. Rhizome thick, woody. Culms loosely tufted, central, erect. **Leaves** basal and cauline, leathery; ligule 0. Involucral bracts leaf-like, unequal. **Inflorescence** umbel-like, 2–3-times branched. Spikes in clusters of 2–7 at tips of branches, sessile or shortly pedunculate, narrowly cylindrical comprising many spirally imbricate, leathery, glume-like bracts (spicoid bracts) each subtending a partial inflorescence (spicoid) with a much reduced axis. Spicoids comprising a naked, terminal female flower and 5–6 scale-like floral bracts, the lowest 2 floral bracts opposite, keeled, ciliate on keel, the upper bracts \pm connate, each subtending a male flower. Perianth segments 0. Stamens 1–3 per male flower. Stigmas 2. **Nutlets** ellipsoid, obtuse, slightly compressed, smooth.

Monotypic genus.

4.1 *Diplasia karataefolia* Rich. in Pers., Syn. Pl. 1: 70. 1805; Nees in Mart., Fl. bras. 2(1): 70. 1842.

Perennial. Culms to 3 m long, 6 mm wide, trigonous, smooth. **Leaves:** blade linear, up to 3 m long, 4 cm wide, gradually narrowed, acuminate leathery; sheath 10–12 cm long, mid-brown. Involucral bracts 5, the longest up to 50 cm long. **Inflorescence:** primary branches 7 or more, up to 16 cm long; secondary branches 1.5–5 cm long. Spikes 1.5–3.5 cm \times 2–4.5 mm, pale to mid-brown. Spicoid bracts ovate, 5.4–5.5 \times 3.2 mm, obtuse, pale to mid-brown, margins paler, keel greenish to brown. Spicoids \pm equalling the spicoid bracts. Floral bracts 3.5–4 mm long, 1 mm wide. Stamens 7–8 per spicoid. **Nutlets** 6–6.2 \times 4.2–5 mm, mid-brown.

Tropical South America.

Forest.

24.V.1967 (st) *Albuquerque, B. W. P. & Elias, J. 63* (INPA); 9.XII.1994 (fr) *Costa, M. A. S. & Nascimento, J. R. 42* (INPA); 12.X.1966 (fl) *Prance, G. T. et al. 2632* (INPA); 1.VII.1994 (fl) *Ribeiro, J. E. L. S. 1335* (K); 28.IV.1964 (fl) *Rodrigues, W. & Loureiro, A. 5801* (INPA); 3.II.1965 (fl) *Rodrigues, W. & Monteiro, O. P. 6853* (INPA); 29.I.1998 (fl) *Souza, M. A. D. et al. 541* (INPA).

Additional specimen examined: BRAZIL. AMAZONAS: ca. 20 km from Manaus 27.X.1989 *Bogner 2019* (K).

Diplasia karataefolia is unmistakable, being a very robust plant with large leathery leaves and an umbel-like inflorescence.

5. *Eleocharis*

Annual or perennial **herbs**. Rhizome short or creeping. Culms terete or angular, sometimes transversely septate. **Leaves** reduced to bladeless sheaths; ligule 0. Involucral bracts 1*2, glume-like. **Inflorescence** a single, terminal spikelet. Spikelet ovoid, ellipsoid or cylindrical. Glumes several to many per spikelet, \pm equal in length, usually spirally imbricate, rarely 2-ranked. **Flowers** bisexual. Perianth segments up to 8, bristle-like, sometimes 0. Stamens 1–3. Stigmas 2–3. **Nutlets** trigonous or biconvex, mostly obovate; surface smooth, reticulate (cancellate), pitted, longitudinally grooved or transversely ridged; style-base persistent on nutlets.

About 180 species occurring in tropical and temperate regions worldwide.

5.1 *Eleocharis filiculmis* Kunth, Enum. Pl. 2: 144. 1837; Svenson, Rhodora 39: 266. 1937.

Annual or perhaps short-lived perennial. Culms tufted, 20–26 cm long, 0.6–0.8 mm wide, 4-angled with 1–2 \pm central channels down each side of culm. Sheaths 1.3–3 cm long, apex acute to subobtuse, dark reddish. Spikelets ellipsoid, to ellipsoid-cylindrical, terete, 5–7 \times 2–3 mm. Glumes many per spikelet, oblong, 1.8–1.9 mm long, 1 mm wide, obtuse to rounded, sides membranous with broad membranous margin, pale brown minutely reddish-striate, midrib mid-brown. Perianth segments 6–7, shorter than nutlet. Stamens 2;

anthers 0.9 mm long. Stigmas 3. **Nutlets** obovoid, trigonous, 0.9 × 0.5 mm, apex rounded, light brown; surface smooth, somewhat shiny; style-base pyramidal.

Tropical America.

Wet places.

17.I.1995 (fl) *Costa, M. A. S. & Nascimento, J. R. 101* (INPA K MG MONY R RB SP U); 26.IV.1981 (fr) *Lowe, J. 4107* (INPA K UIH).

Eleocharis filiculmis can be distinguished by leaves that are reduced to bladeless sheaths, a single spikelet on each culm and nutlets with a prominent pyramidal style-base.

6. *Fimbristylis*

Annual or perennial **herbs**. Rhizome short creeping. Culms usually tufted, angled, trigonous or flattened. **Leaves** basal, bladed or reduced to bladeless sheaths; blades linear to filiform, often canaliculate, often cellular-reticulate on upper surface; ligule sometimes present, pubescent or membranous. Involucral bracts leaf-like, setaceous or glume-like. **Inflorescence** umbel-like and 1–3 times branched or capitate or a single spikelet. Spikelets mostly ovoid or ellipsoid, terete, angular or ± laterally flattened. Glumes few to many per spikelet, spirally arranged. **Flowers** bisexual. Perianth segments 0. Stamens 1–3. Stigmas 2–3; style jointed with ovary and clearly demarcated from it; style base not persistent on nutlets. **Nutlets** trigonous or biconvex, surface variously patterned.

Genus of 200 species mostly in the tropics and subtropics, with the highest number in S. Asia, Indo-China and Malaysia.

6.1 *Fimbristylis dichotoma* (L.) Vahl, En. Pl. 2: 287. 1806.

Scirpus dichotomus L., Sp. Pl. 1: 50. 1753.

Annual or short-lived perennial. Rhizome short. Culms tufted, 18–50 cm long, 0.5–0.8 mm wide, trigonous, glabrous, smooth. **Leaves** basal; blade narrowly linear, 4–16 cm long, 1.3 mm wide, obtuse, flattish; sheath 2–12 cm long, sparsely pubescent; ligule a fringe

of dense hairs. Involucral bracts 2–7, the longest 1–2 leaf-like, 2–8 cm long. **Inflorescence** umbel-like, 1–2 times branched, open, 2–8 × 1.5–5 cm; primary branches 2–5, 0.7–6 cm long. Spikelets 2–14 per inflorescence, solitary, ovoid to ovoid-ellipsoid, 3–7 mm long, 1.5–2.5 mm. Glumes many per spikelet, ± equal in length, spirally arranged, broadly ovate to suborbicular, 1.5–3 × 1.5–2.2 mm, subacute, mucronate, sides thinly chartaceous, nerves 0, mid-brown to dark reddish-brown, margins pale-hyaline, keel obtuse, greenish to pale brown. Stamen 1. Stigmas 2. **Nutlets** obovate to broadly obovate, biconvex, 0.7 × 0.6 mm, maturing cream or pale brown, deeply cancellate with 5–6 rows of transversely oblong epidermal cells on each side.

Tropical (India, type), subtropical and warm-temperate regions worldwide.

Open, damp places.

17.I.1995 (fl) *Costa, M. A. S. & Nascimento, J. R. 102* (INPA K MG MONY R RB SP U); 26.IV.1981 (fl) *Lowe, J. 4104* (INPA).

Fimbristylis dichotoma is a common weedy species throughout the tropics. The best character for distinguishing it is the nutlet which has 5–6 rows of transversely oblong epidermal cells on each side. It also has an umbel-like inflorescence with spirally arranged glumes in each spikelet.

7. *Fuirena*

Annual or perennial **herbs**. Rhizome short or creeping. Culms (3–)4–5-angular, nodose. **Leaves** mostly cauline; blade pubescent or glabrous, 3–5-nerved; sheaths closed; ligule 0. Involucral bracts leaf-like, sheathing at base, equalling or longer than inflorescence. **Inflorescence** paniculate, with few to many clusters of sessile spikelets at few to several nodes. Spikelets with many glumes. Glumes ± equal in length, spirally imbricate, pubescent outside, usually shortly awned, 1–3-nerved, the lowest 1–3 empty. **Flowers** bisexual. Perianth segments 3–6 in 1–2 whorls each of 3 segments, outer whorl of simple bristles, sometimes absent, inner whorl of

bristles, blades or claws. Stamens 2–3. Stigmas 3; style continuous with ovary. **Nutlets** trigonous to triquetrous, apex beaked, base cuneate to stipitate, smooth to trabeculate.

Genus of *ca.* 30 species in the tropics, the largest number being in Africa.

7.1 *Fuirena umbellata* Rottb., Descr. & Ic. Rar.: 70. t.19 fig. 3. 1773; Nees in Mart., Fl. bras. 2(1): 107. 1842.

Perennial. Culms up to 60 cm long, 6–9 mm wide, pubescent below inflorescence. **Leaves** 5–7, cauline; blade lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, 8–12 cm long, 5–15 mm wide, acute, ciliate at base; sheath 2–5 cm long, usually glabrous. **Inflorescence** with 3–12 clusters of spikelets, peduncles whitish-pubescent. Spikelets ovoid or ovoid-ellipsoid, \pm squarrose, 4–8 \times 2 mm, acute, brownish-green or dark brownish-green. Glumes obovate to ovate-elliptic, 2–2.5 \times 1.2–1.5 mm, rounded, shortly pubescent, awn 0.8–1.2 mm long, often pilose. Perianth segments 3, in 1 whorl only, obovate or oblong, membranous, truncate, subsessile with a very short claw at base. Anthers 0.5–0.7 mm long. **Nutlets** obovoid to ellipsoid, 0.8–1.2 \times 0.6–0.7 mm, shiny, smooth to obscurely wrinkled.

Pantropical.

Open, damp or wet places.

7.IX.1996 *Assunção 384* (INPA K); 14.VI.1988 *Santos 926* (INPA K).

Fuirena umbellata is easily distinguished by its cauline leaves. In addition, the perianth segments are obovate or oblong, a characteristic seen in any other Cyperaceae described here.

8. *Hypolytrum*

Stoloniferous or rhizomatous perennial **herbs**. Rhizome usually woody. Culms central or lateral, the latter with cataphylls at base. **Leaves** 3-ranked, basal or cauline; blade coriaceous, glabrous; pseudopetiole present or 0; ligule 0. Involucral bracts leaf-like, basal bract usually longest. **Inflorescence** usually paniculate, 1–2-times branched, more rarely capitate (not in Ducke

taxa) with 1-many spikes. Spikes comprising many spirally imbricate glume-like bracts (spicoid bracts) each subtending a partial inflorescence (spicoid) with a much reduced axis. Spicoids comprising a naked, terminal female flower and 2(–3) scale-like floral bracts, all subtending a male flower, the lowest 2 floral bracts opposite, keeled. Perianth segments 0. Stamens 2 per spicoid, 1 per male flower. Stigmas 2–3. **Nutlets** sculptured, often with spongy conical apex.

About 50 species, pantropical.

8.1 *Hypolytrum schraderianum* Nees in Mart., Fl. bras. 2(1): 65. 1842; T. Koyama, Darwiniana 16(1–2): 56. 1970.

Perennial. Rhizome short-creeping. Culms central, 70–96 cm long, 2.2–3 mm wide, trigonous, smooth. **Leaves** basal and 2 cauline; blade linear, 90 cm long, 19–28 mm wide, gradually narrowed, 3-nerved; pseudopetiole absent; cauline sheaths 5–6 cm long, mid-brown to reddish-brown. Involucral bracts 2–3, leaf-like, the longest 25–50 cm long. **Inflorescence** an open panicle, compound, broadly ovoid, 12–16 \times 14–16 cm, comprising up to 12 primary branches each subtending up to 6 secondary branches terminating in tertiary branches subtending 1–3 sessile or shortly stalked spikes. Spikes ovoid, ellipsoid to narrowly cylindrical, 4–9 \times 1–3 mm, mid-brown. Spicoid bracts obovate, elliptic-obovate 1.5–1.7 \times 0.9–1 mm, rounded, mid-brown. Spicoids \pm equalling or slightly exceeding the spicoid bracts. Floral bracts 2, \pm free, 1.4–1.8 mm long, keel ciliate. Stamens 2 per spicoid. Stigmas 3. **Nutlets** broadly ovoid to suborbicular, 1.5–2.1 by 1–1 mm, apex conical, irregularly longitudinally ridged.

Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela.

Forest.

16.III.1995 (fl) *Costa, M. A. S. et al. 163* (INPA K); 16.III.1995 (fl) *Costa, M. A. S. et al. 164* (NOK); 28.IV.1988 (bd) *Ramos, J. F. & Lima, R. P. 1887* (INPA K MG NY SP); 2.VI.1993 (fl) *Ribeiro, J. E. L. S. et al. 786* (INPA); 3.VI.1993 (fl) *Ribeiro, J. E. L. S. et al. 821* (INPA K); 26.IV.1994 (fr) *Vicentini, A. et al. 490* (INPA K MG MO NY RB SP).

Hypolytrum schraderianum is distinguished by its paniculate inflorescence, two floral bracts and two stamens per spicoid.

9. *Kyllinga*

Annual or perennial **herbs**. Rhizome short or horizontally creeping. **Leaves** basal, 3-ranked, the blades elongated or reduced; ligule 0. Involucral bracts leaf-like. **Inflorescence** capitate. Spikes 1-few, sessile, cylindrical, ellipsoid or globose; axis short. Spikelets numerous, falling entire, crowded, bilaterally flattened. Glumes several, \pm equal

in length, 2-ranked, strongly laterally flattened, sides membranous to hyaline, nerves 0-several, keel strongly acute, sometimes winged, smooth, spinulose or serrulate. **Flowers** 1–5 per spikelet, bisexual or staminate in upper glume(s). Perianth segments 0. Stamens 2–3. Stigmas 2; style continuous with ovary. **Nutlets** 1–2 per spikelet, laterally biconvex with one margin facing the axis.

Genus of *ca.* 60 species in tropical, subtropical and warm-temperate regions with the highest species diversity in Africa.

Key to the species of *Kyllinga* in Reserva Ducke

1. Perennial; rhizome long-creeping; spikes 1 per inflorescence 1. *K. brevifolia*
1. Annual; rhizome absent; spikes usually 2–3 per inflorescence 2. *K. pumila*

9.1 *Kyllinga brevifolia* Rottb., Descr. Icon. Rar. Nov. Pl. 13, t. 4, fig. 3. 1773; Nees in Mart., Fl. bras. 2(1): 15. 1842.

Cyperus brevifolius (Rottb.) Hassk., Cat. Hort. Bogor. 24. 1884; Kük. in Engl., Pflanzenr. 4(20), 101 Heft: 600. 1936.

Perennial. Rhizome long-creeping. Culms rather distant in series along rhizome, 7–30 cm long, 1–1.5 mm wide, triquetrous, smooth. **Leaves:** blade narrowly linear, 2–17 cm long, 1–3 mm wide, acute, flattish-plicate; sheath 1–20 cm long, brownish or purplish brown. Involucral bracts 2–4, the longest 3–20 cm long, 1.7–2.4 mm wide, sometimes erect. **Inflorescence** capitate, globose. Spikes 1(–3), globose, 0.5–1 \times 0.5–1 cm. Spikelets oblong-lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate, 3–3.5 \times 1 mm, 1(–2)-flowered. Glumes ovate-elliptic, 1–3.5 mm long, shortly cuspidate, sides membranous, 5–7-nerved, pale green to pale brown, keel sparsely spinulose, green. Stamens 1–2(–3); anthers 1 mm long. **Nutlets** 1–2 per spikelet, obovate or elliptic, 1–1.5 \times 0.5–0.7 mm, brownish, minutely punctate.

Tropics, subtropics and warm temperate regions.

Open damp or wet places.

8.VI.1995 (fl) Costa, M. A. S. & Silva, C. F. 303 (INPA KMG MONY RRB SP UL); 26.IV.1981 (fl) Lowe, J. 4099 (INPA KUIH); 14.XII.1966 (fl) Prance, G. T. et al. 3638 (INPA).

Kyllinga brevifolia is a common pantropical weed and is recognised by its creeping rhizome with culms that are rather distant along the rhizome.

9.2 *Kyllinga pumila* Michx, Fl. bor.-amer. 1: 28. 1803; Nees in Mart., Fl. bras. 2(1): 20. 1842.

Cyperus densicaespitosus Mattf. & Kük. in Engl., Pflanzenr. 4(20), 101 Heft: 597. 1936.

Annual. Rhizome absent. Culms 14–30 cm long, 0.4–0.6 mm wide, trigonous to \pm terete, smooth. **Leaves:** blade narrowly linear, 3–9 cm long, 0.7–1.7 mm wide, flattish to boated-shaped in cross section; sheath 2.5–5 mm long, dark reddish-brown. Involucral bracts 4, the longest 5–7 cm long, 0.6–1 mm wide. **Inflorescence** capitate, globose. Spikes usually 3, broadly ovoid to subglobose, 5 \times 4 mm; spikelets lanceolate, 2 \times 0.5 mm, 1-flowered. Glumes ovate-lanceolate, 1.5–2 \times 1 mm, shortly cuspidate, sides membranous, sides 3–4-nerved, pale green, keel somewhat winged spinulose. Stamen 1; anthers 0.3 mm

long. **Nutlets** 1 per spikelet, elliptic-obovate, 1 × 0.5 mm, greenish-brown, minutely punctulate.

Tropical America and Africa.

8.VI.1995 (fr) *Costa, M. A. S. & Silva, C. F. 305* (G INPA K MG MO NY R RB SPU).

Open, damp places.

Kyllinga pumila is an annual species without a rhizome and often has three spikes per inflorescence.

10. *Mapania*

Stoloniferous or rhizomatous perennial **herbs**. Rhizome woody. Culms central or lateral (arising from lower leaf axils or below the leaves), the latter with cataphylls at base. **Leaves** 3-ranked, basal or cauline; blade linear to oblong, coriaceous; pseudopetiole present or 0; ligule 0. Involucral bracts leaf-like in capitate and centrally culmed species,

otherwise glume-like. **Inflorescence** paniculate, capitate with few to many spikes (in Ducke taxa) or a single spike only. Spikes comprising few-many spirally imbricate glume-like bracts (spicoid bracts), each subtending a partial inflorescence with a much reduced axis (spicoid). Spicoid comprising a naked, terminal female flower and 4-6 scale-like floral bracts, the lowest 2 opposite, keeled, the lowest 3 subtending a male flower the remainder empty. Perianth segments 0. Stamens 1-3 per spicoid, 1 per male flower. Stigmas 2-3. **Nutlets** with a hard or succulent exocarp, smooth or sculptured, lateral costae or furrows 0 or 2-3.

Genus of 80 species, Sri Lanka and N. India, S. China, Indo-China, Malesia, north-eastern Australia and Polynesia; also in tropical Africa, S. Central America and N. South America.

Key to the species of *Mapania* in Reserva Ducke

1. Leaves reduced to bladeless sheaths; involucral bracts elliptic to elliptic-obovate 3. *M. sylvatica*
1. Leaves with a linear blade; involucral bracts linear.
 2. Leaves more than 2 cm wide; inflorescence reddish-brown; nutlet without spongy apex and dark brown spot towards base 1. *M. pycnocephala*
 2. Leaves up to 2 cm wide; inflorescence whitish; nutlet with spongy apex and dark brown spot towards base 2. *M. pycnostachya*

10.1 *Mapania pycnocephala* subsp. *fluviatilis* (Sandwith) T. Koyama, Mem. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 17: 66. 1967; D. A. Simpson, Rev. gen. *Mapania*: 152. 1992.

Mapania fluviatilis Sandwith, Kew Bull. 1933: 495. 1933.

Perennial. Rhizome short. Culm central, 35-70 cm long, 1.9-4.5 mm wide, subtriquetrous, glabrous. **Leaves** basal; blade linear, rarely linear-oblong, 27-112 cm long, 2.1-7.6 cm wide, narrowed, acuminate, base narrowed into pseudopetiole, 1 (-3)-nerved; pseudopetiole 5-22 cm long; sheath 12-18 cm long, dark reddish-brown. Involucral bracts 3-4, leaf-like, linear, 8-89 × 0.2-7.7 cm, basal bract longest. **Inflorescence** capitate, half-globose to globose, 2-6.5 cm wide, mid-

reddish-brown, with numerous spikes. Spikes linear to elliptic, up to 1.5 cm long, often indistinct. Spicoid bracts linear-lanceolate or lanceolate, 6.5-7.7 × 1.4-2.8 mm, acute, mid-reddish-brown. Spicoids shorter or ± equalling spicoid bracts. Floral bracts 4, free to ± connate, lower 2 bracts linear, 6.2-7.3 × 0.6-1.2 mm, keel usually narrowly winged, glabrous to sparsely hispid. Stamens 2 per spicoid, anthers linear, linear-oblong, 2.3-3 mm long; stigma branches 2. **Nutlets** obovoid to globose, 1-1.5 × 0.9-1.4 mm, rounded, apex apiculate, not spongy; surface smooth, light greenish or brown at first, becoming uniformly dark brown and without a dark brown spot towards base, often shiny, lateral costae 2, indistinct.

South America: Venezuela, Guyana, French Guiana and Brazil.

Forest.

30.VII.1996 (fl) *Luceño, M. & A. P. Mendes 01* (INPA).

Additional specimens examined: BRAZIL. AMAPÁ: Río Amapari, Serra do Navio, along trail to Río Araguary, 19.XI.1954 *Cowan 38439* (NY); Río Vila Nova, 8.XII.1976 *Ribeiro 1659* (NY UPS); Tumucumaque, 2.5 km NNW of Mitaraka, 1.IX.1972 *de Granville 1449* (CAY NY); AMAZONAS: Río Negro, São Gabriel de Cachoeira, 21.X.1978 *Madison et al. 6534* (AAU K NY); 40 km from São Gabriel 21.X.1978 *Nascimento 712* (NY UPS).

Mapania pycnocephala subsp. *fluviatilis* is distinguished by its reddish-brown inflorescence with numerous spikes and two stamens per spicoid. Material from Costa Rica to western Venezuela is assigned to subsp. *pycnocephala* which has shorter spicoid bracts and a nutlet surface that is shallowly rugulose.

10.2 *Mapania pycnostachya* (Benth.) T. Koyama, Mem. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 17: 61. 1967; D. A. Simpson, Rev. gen. *Mapania*: 165. 1992.

Diplasia pycnostachya Benth., J. Linn Soc. 15: 512. 1877.

Hypolytrum condensatum C.B. Clarke, Kew Bull. Add. Ser. 8: 50. 1908, *nom. superfl.*

Perennial. Rhizome short. Culm central, 35–50 cm long, 2.2–2.9 mm wide, trigonous, scabrid. **Leaves** basal; blade linear, 49–82 × 1.4–2 cm, gradually narrowed, acuminate, base gradually narrowed into pseudopetiole, 1-nerved; pseudopetiole 2.5–8 × 0.4–6 cm; sheath 5–7 cm long, greenish to reddish-brown. Involucral bracts 3(-4), leaf-like, linear, 5–67 × 0.2–2 cm, basal bract longest. **Inflorescence** capitate, globose, 1.5–2.5 cm in diam., whitish, with up to 20 spikes. Spikes ovate, 1 × 0.5 cm, usually indistinct. Spicoid bracts lanceolate, 6.8–8 cm × 1.9–2.7 mm, acute, light brown. Spicoids ± equalling spicoid bracts. Floral bracts 4, free, lower 2 bracts lanceolate, 6.8–8 × 0.9–1.1 mm, keel glabrous. Stamen 1 per spicoid, anther linear-oblong, 2–2.3 mm long, cream; stigma branches 2. **Nutlets** 2-sided, ovoid or ellipsoid,

3.5–4.5 × 1.5–1.9 mm, apex spongy, acute; surface smooth or slightly wrinkled, shiny, light brown, with a dark brown spot towards base, lateral costae absent.

South America: Southern Venezuela and northern Brazil.

Margins of streams in forest.

14.IX.1971 (fr) *Prance, G. T. et al. 14744* (FINPA K NYUUS).

Mapania pycnostachya has a whitish inflorescence, one stamen per spicoid and a nutlet with a spongy section at the apex and distinct brown spot towards the base.

10.3 *Mapania sylvatica* Aubl. subsp. *sylvatica*, Hist. Pl. Guiane Fr. 1: 47; 3: t.17. 1775; D. A. Simpson, Rev. gen. *Mapania*: 43. 1992.

Perennial. Rhizome short. Culm central, 21–60 cm long, 1.4–2.9 mm wide, terete to subtrigonus, glabrous. Leaves reduced to bladeless sheaths; sheaths 2.5–18 cm long, dark reddish. Involucral bracts 3(-4), leaf-like, narrowly elliptic or elliptic-obovate, 11–30 × 3.2–6 cm, ± equal in size. **Inflorescence** terminal, with 1–2, rarely more spikes. Spikes elliptic to oblong, rarely oblong-lanceolate, 1.2–2.7 × 0.8–1.4 cm, distinct. Spicoid bracts narrowly oblong, 5.5–6.5 × 1.4–2.2 mm, acute, often somewhat cucullate, often splitting longitudinally, reddish-brown. Spicoids ± equalling or exceeding spicoid bracts. Floral bracts 6, free, lowest 2 bracts linear or linear-lanceolate, 6.3–7.9 × 1.2–1.5 mm, acute, sometimes cucullate, reddish-brown, keel sparsely to densely ciliate. Stamens 3 per spicoid, anthers linear, linear-oblong, 1.3–2.4 mm long; stigma branches 3. **Nutlets** obovoid to subglobose, 1.5–2.5 × 1.1–1.5 mm, rounded, shortly apiculate; surface strongly longitudinally ridged, with connecting horizontal ridges, green at first, becoming dull olive brown or dark brown, lateral costae 3.

Northern South America.

Wet forest, often near to water.

19.I.1995 (fl) *Costa, M. A. S. & Nascimento, J. R. III* (INPA K MG MO NY SP); 4.VIII.1994 (fr)

Ribeiro, J. E. L. S. & Silva, C. F. 1389 (INPA K MG, MO NY RB SP); 1.XII.1956 (fl) Rodrigues, W. & Chagas, J. 1470 (INPA); 8.X.1963 (fl) Rodrigues, W. 5493 (INPA).

Mapania sylvatica subsp. *sylvatica* is an unusual species with leaves reduced to bladeless sheaths and elliptic to elliptic-obovate involucre bracts. The inflorescence usually has 1-2 spikes, there are six floral bracts per spike and the nutlet is obovoid to subglobose.

11. *Pleurostachys*

Perennial **herbs**. Rhizome short-creeping. Culms noded. **Leaves** mostly cauline, a few basal and often reduced to a bladeless sheath. Involucre bracts usually leaf-like. **Inflorescence** paniculate; partial inflorescences corymbose to umbel-like, rarely contracted. Spikelets small, usually terete. Glumes several to many, spirally imbricate or rarely distichous, the basal glumes small, empty, the remainder gradually increasing in length towards the spikelet apex, with the middle 3-7 glumes subtending a flower and the upper few empty. Flowers bisexual. Perianth segments 3-6, upper part ciliate to fimbriate, lower part scabrid. Stamens 3. Stigmas 2. **Nutlets** biconvex, often rugose; style base persistent often thickened.

Genus of ca. 30 species, subtropical and tropical S. America.

11.1 *Pleurostachys sparsiflora* Kunth, Enum. Pl. 2: 286. 1837.

Nemochloa sparsiflora (Kunth) Nees in Mart., Fl. bras. 2(1): 151. 1842.

Perennial. Rhizome woody. Culms somewhat distant, usually hidden by cauline leaf sheaths, 17-37 cm long, 1.5-2.5 mm wide, trigonous, smooth. **Leaves**: blade linear, 27-35 cm long, 4-6 mm wide, gradually narrowed, acuminate, flat, green; sheath 3-3.5 cm long, green to pale brown. Involucre bracts leaf-like up 30 cm long. **Inflorescence** paniculate; nodes 6-8, distant, each subtending 1-2 partial inflorescences; partial inflorescences corymbose, simple to

compound, 10-19 cm long; primary branches filamentous, 4-8 cm long; secondary branches 1-2.5 cm long. Spikelets 1-2 per inflorescence branch, obovoid, 2-3.5 × 1.3-2 mm, obtuse, mid-brown. Glumes ovate, 2 mm long, 1 mm wide, obtuse, membranous, mid-reddish-brown. **Nutlets** broadly ovate, 2.8-3 × 1.6-1.8 mm, rounded, mid-brown, surface irregular, style base conical, blackish.

Tropical South America.

Forest.

17.I.1995 (fl) Costa, M. A. S. & Nascimento, J. R. 103 (INPA K MG MO NY R RB SP U); 17.V.1988 (fr) Coêlho, D. & Lima, R. P. 52-D (INPA K MG MONY RB SP); 7.VIII.1995 (st) Nee, M. 46211 (K).

Additional specimen examined: BRAZIL. PARÁ: Itatuba 17.XI.1978 Silva et al. 3799 (K).

Pleurostachys sparsiflora is recognised by its corymbose partial inflorescences that have filamentous branches and small spikelets borne singly at the tips of the branches.

12. *Rhynchospora*

Annual or perennial **herbs**. Culms central. **Leaves** basal and/or cauline; blades linear to lanceolate; sheaths closed; ligule 0. Involucre bracts usually leaf-like. **Inflorescence** capitate or paniculate; partial inflorescences umbel-like or corymbose. Spikelets lanceolate, ovate to elliptic, flattened to terete. Glumes 5-9 (rarely more), 2-ranked or spirally imbricate, membranous to chartaceous, 1-nerved, the basal 2-3 glumes, empty and small, the remainder gradually increasing in length towards the spikelet apex, with a single flower, the uppermost glume often empty. **Flowers** either all bisexual, the upper ones not maturing a nutlet, or lower 1-few bisexual and upper ones male, or unisexual with the lowest female and upper one(s) male. Perianth segments 0-6, rarely more, bristle-like, upwardly or retrorsely scabrid, rarely smooth. Stamens (1-)2-3. Stigmas 2 or style undivided. **Nutlets** biconvex, smooth, cancellate, rugose or sometimes spinose; style base persistent, variously-shaped.

Over 250 species in temperate and tropical regions, with the greatest concentration of species in tropical and subtropical South America.

12.1 *Rhynchospora pubera* (Vahl) Boeck subsp. *pubera*, Linnaea 37: 528. 1872,.

Dichromena pubera Vahl subsp. *pubera*, Enum. Pl. 2: 241. 1806.

Perennial. Culms tufted, 7–28 cm long, 0.4–0.7 mm wide, terete to ± trigonous, smooth. **Leaves** basal; blade linear, up to 19 cm long, 1–2.5 mm wide, gradually narrowed, subacute, flattish to folded; sheaths up to 1–3 cm long, pale brown. Involucral bracts 4, leaf-like, greenish to whitish at base, the longest up to 8 cm long. **Inflorescence** capitate, ovoid to subglobose, 0.7–0.9 × 0.7–1 cm. Spikelets 2–6, lanceolate, ± terete, 0.7–0.8 cm × 2–3 mm, white. Glumes 8–10, ovate to lanceolate, 5.5–6 × 2.2–2.4 mm, white, keel often ciliolate. Perianth segments 0. Stamens 3; anthers 3 mm long. Stigmas 2. **Nutlets** lenticular, widely obovate, 2.5 mm long, 1.2 mm wide, mid- to very dark brown, transversely rugose; style-base very shallowly triangular.

Northern South America, mostly E. of Colombia and Peru.

Open, damp places.

8.VI.1995 (fl) *Costa, M. A. S. & Silva, C. F. 304* (INPA K MG MONY RB SP U); 26.IV.1981 (fl) *Lowe, J. 4101* (INPA).

Rhynchospora pubera subsp. *pubera*

is distinguished by its white spikelets and the lenticular nutlets with a shallowly triangular style-base and transversely rugose surface. It is one of a number of species in the genus *Rhynchospora* that are insect-pollinated.

13. *Scleria*

Annual or perennial **herbs**. Rhizome usually woody, often knotted. Culms solitary or tufted, usually erect, sometimes climbing or scrambling. **Leaves** basal and/or cauline, the latter sometimes apparently in whorls; blade mostly linear; sheath closed, often 3-winged; ligule 0; contraligule usually present. **Inflorescence** usually paniculate, bearing a terminal and 0-several lateral partial inflorescences, occasionally reduced and spike-like or capitate. Spikelets unisexual or bisexual; bisexual spikelets with terminal female flower and 1-several lateral male ones; female spikelets with a single female flower and 1-several lateral glumes (reduced male flowers); male spikelets with several to many glumes. Glumes spirally arranged or 2-ranked. **Flowers** unisexual. Perianth segments 0. Stamens 1–3 per male flower. Stigmas 3; style continuous with the ovary, deciduous. **Nutlets** not spongy, not enclosed by a membranous sac, terete or subtrigonous, mostly globose, ovoid or subpyramidal, with bony pericarp and a stipe-like, 3-lobed or cup-like, rarely indistinct disk attached at the base.

Key to the species of *Scleria* in Reserva Ducke

1. Plants climbing or trailing; disk at nutlet base an irregular ring 3. *S. secans*
1. Plants erect, not climbing; disk at nutlet base 3-lobed, the lobes rounded or fimbriate.
 2. Inflorescence spike-like; leaf blade 15 mm or more wide; disk-lobes fimbriate ... 1. *S. cyperina*
 2. Inflorescence elongated; leaf blade up to 5 mm wide; disk-lobes rounded ..2. *S. melaleuca*

13.1 *Scleria cyperina* Kunth, Enum. Pl. 2: 345. 1837.

Erect **perennial**. Rhizome creeping. Culms to 37 cm long, 1.5–2.5 mm wide, triquetrous, glabrous. **Leaves** cauline; blade linear, to 52 cm long, 15–17 mm wide, gradually

narrowed, narrowly obtuse, flattish; sheath 7–9 cm long, pale brown to reddish-tinged; contraligule broadly obtuse, glabrous often with a broad, membranous apex. Lowest involucral bract leaf-like, up to 26 cm long; upper bracts indistinct, setaceous.

Inflorescence paniculate, but appearing spike-like, 8–10 × 4–8 cm; nodes 12–22, crowded or the lowermost one distant, each subtending a single partial inflorescence or the upper ones a single male spikelet. Spikelets female and male, solitary; female spikelets sessile, obovoid, 5–6 mm long; male spikelets pedunculate, oblong-lanceolate, 4–5 mm long, peduncle up 1 mm long. Female glumes elliptic-ovate, 5–7 × 2 mm, acute, sides coriaceous, very dark reddish, keel slightly paler or greenish. Stamen 1. **Nutlets** obovoid-globose, terete-trigonal, 3.2 × 2 mm, rounded, dark purplish above white below, indistinctly reticulate, rather shiny, sparsely pubescent below; disk 3-lobed, the lobes fimbriate.

Tropical South America.

Open areas.

20.I.1995 (fr) *Costa, M. A. S. & Nascimento, J. R. 113* (INPA K MG MO NY R RB SP).

Additional specimen examined: BRAZIL. AMAZONAS: Manaus-Pôrto Velho highway, km 245 13.III.1974 *Prance et al. 20463* (INPA NY K).

Scleria cyperina has rather broad leaves and a crowded spike-like inflorescence. The disk-lobes at the nutlet base are fimbriate.

13.2 *Scleria melaleuca* Rchb. ex Schldl. & Cham., *Linnaea* 6: 29. 1831; Nees in Mart., *Fl. bras.* 2(1): 178. 1842.

Scleria pratensis Lindl. ex Nees, in Mart., *Fl. bras.* 2,1: 179. 1842.

Erect **perennial**. Rhizome short-creeping. Culms to 19 cm long, 1 mm wide, subtriquetrous, glabrous to puberulent. **Leaves** mostly cauline; blade linear, 15–28 cm long, 5 mm wide, gradually narrowed, obtuse, flat to plicate; sheath 6–9 cm long, pale brown to reddish; conraligule shallowly rounded, pubescent. Lowest involucral bract leaf-like, up to 26 cm long, upper bracts rather indistinct, setaceous. **Inflorescence** elongated, narrowly paniculate, open, 14–26 × 2 cm; nodes 3–4, each subtending a single partial inflorescence; partial inflorescence sessile or shortly pedunculate, ovate-lanceolate, 2–8 cm long, decreasing in size towards apex. Spikelets female and male, solitary or in groups of 2–3;

female spikelets sessile, obovoid, 3–3.5 mm long; male spikelets shortly pedunculate, oblong-lanceolate, 3.5 mm long. Female glumes elliptic-ovate, 3 × 2 mm, acute, sides coriaceous, dark reddish-brown, keel green. Stamen 1. **Nutlets** globose, terete, 2.5 × 2 mm, rounded, dark purplish above white below, smooth, shiny, sparsely pubescent below; disk 3-lobed, the lobes rounded.

Subtropical and tropical America, tropical Africa, Madagascar.

Open, damp areas.

8.VI.1995 (fr) *Costa, M. A. S. & Silva, C. F. 306* (INPA K MG MO NY R RB SP U).

Scleria melaleuca has narrow leaves and an elongated inflorescence. The disk-lobes are rounded.

13.3 *Scleria secans* (L.) Urb., *Symb. Ant.* 2(1): 169. 1900.

Schoenus secans L., *Syst. Nat.* 10,2: 1759.

Climbing or trailing **perennial**. Rhizome creeping, knotted. Culms up to 10 m long, 1.5–2.5 mm wide, triquetrous, glabrous to scabrid. **Leaves** cauline; blade linear, 28 cm long, 4–5 mm wide, gradually narrowed, acuminate, flat to plicate, margins sharply minutely toothed; sheath 3–5.5 cm long, pale to mid-brown, pubescent above; conraligule obtuse, pubescent. Lowest involucral bract leaf-like, up to 21 cm long, upper bracts leaf-like to setaceous. **Inflorescence** elongated, narrowly paniculate, open, 13–14 × 1–2 cm; nodes 7–9, each subtending a single partial inflorescence; partial inflorescence sessile to pedunculate, 0.5–5 cm long. Spikelets female and male, solitary or sometimes male spikelets in groups of 2; female spikelets sessile, obovoid, 5–6 mm long; male spikelets shortly pedunculate, narrowly-lanceolate, 4 mm long. Female glumes broadly elliptic, 5 × 3 mm, acute, sides coriaceous, green or brown with dark reddish-brown margins, keel green. Stamen 1. **Nutlets** ovoid, terete-trigonal, 2.8 × 2.5 mm, rounded, white, smooth, shiny; disk forming an irregular ring.

Tropical America.

Open areas.

10.V.1988 (fr) *Coelho, D. & Lima, R. P. 34-D* (INPA K).
Additional specimens examined: BRAZIL.
AMAZONAS: 50 km NE of Manaus, 1.V.1981 *Lowe 4113* (INPA K); MINAS GERAIS: Serra do Espinhaço, Lapinha, 24.II.1968 *Irwin et al. 20768* (KNY).

Scleria secans is one of the few climbing species of Cyperaceae and may ascend up to 10 m. The minutely toothed leaf-margins easily lacerate the skin. The disk forms an irregular ring around the nutlet base.