

MONIMIACEAE

P. Acevedo-Rodríguez

A pantropical family of trees, shrubs and lianas, with 28 genera and ~200 species; represented in the Neotropics by 5 genera and 71 species of which *Grazielanthus arkeocarpus* Peixoto & Per.-Moura, is the only species of vine. The description that follows pertains to this species since it is the only vine of Monimiaceae in the Neotropics.

Diagnosics: In the absence of fertile material, climbing Monimiaceae from SE Brazil (i.e., *Grazielanthus*) may be confused with Acanthaceae, Viburnaceae, Lamiaceae or Verbenaceae. Members of these families with serrate leaves in the Neotropics can be distinguished as follows: Acanthaceae (e.g., *Aphelandra*) is distinguished by the leaves with linear cystoliths (lacking in *Grazielanthus*); Viburnaceae (i.e., *Viburnum*) by its stellate tomentose pubescence (simple in *Grazielanthus*); and Lamiaceae or Verbenaceae by the often square stems and aromatic leaves.

General Characters

1. STEMS. Subwoody, terete, reaching 2–4 m in height. Aspects of macro anatomy not known.
2. EXUDATES. Not reported, very likely not conspicuous.
3. CLIMBING MECHANISM. Scrambling shrubs, leaning upon the surrounding vegetation and reaching up to 4 m in length.
4. LEAVES. Opposite, decussate, simple, chartaceous, with serrate margins and pinnate venation; petioles short; stipules absent.
5. INFLORESCENCES. Axillary, long-pedunculate; staminate inflorescence a triflorous dichasium; pistillate inflorescence of a single flower, these solitary or paired at the leaf axils.

6. FLOWERS. Unisexual (plant dioecious), actinomorphic with urceolate 4-lobed, receptacle that contains the sexual organs; stamens 35–37, sessile; carpels free, 35–37.
7. FRUITS. Small drupelets contained in a fleshy receptacle that irregularly opens at maturity to expose the fruitlets.

GRAZIELANTHUS Peixoto & Per.-Moura, Kew Bull. 63: 138. 2008.

Dioecious, decumbent or scrambling shrub, 2–4 m tall. Stems slender, terete. Leaves



Grazielanthus arkeocarpus, from D.S. Farias 279 (RB).

simple, opposite, decussate, chartaceous, serrate at margins with glandular teeth, acuminate at apex, shortly petiolate.

Inflorescences axillary, long-peduncled; staminate inflorescence a triflorous dichasium; pistillate flowers solitary or

paired. Flowers unisexual, actinomorphic,

with urceolate, internally four-lobed, non-calyptrate receptacle, that is nearly closed in pistillate flowers; stamens 35–37, sessile or subsessile, inserted on the inner surface of the receptacle, longitudinal slits, dorsifixed; carpels 35–37, free, sessile, the style terminal, verrucose. Fruit of numerous drupelets that are enclosed in a persistent receptacle that turns yellow-green at maturity and opens irregularly into 3 or 4 parts exposing the drupelets and an internally orange and tomentose surface.

Distinctive features: Scrambling subwoody vine, with opposite, serrate leaves; fruitlets contained in a fleshy receptacle.

Distribution: A Brazilian genus of a single species, *Grazilanthus arkeocarpus* Peixoto & Per.-Moura known from the central region of the coastal plain of Rio de Janeiro; moist forests; 0–200 m.