

PHYLLANTHUS IN ECUADOR

In the *Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Ecuador* (Webster in Jørgensen & León-Yáñez, 1999), 20 species were reported from Ecuador. Additional study has shown that additional species need to be added in the treatment for the *Flora of Ecuador*. In some groups, especially subgenus *Conami*, species concepts have been modified. The majority of species of *Phyllanthus* in Ecuador occur in cloud forest between 1000 and 3000 m, but they also occur in the Amazonian lowlands and the dry forests of Manabi and Guayas.

Key to the species

1a. Floating aquatic; leaves distichous, inflated. (sect. *Salviniopsis*)

P. fluitans

1b. Terrestrial herbs, shrubs, or trees.

2a. Leaves distichous on persistent axes, not reduced to scales on penultimate axes; sepals 6, stamens 3.

3a. Shrubs or trees; filaments connate (sect. *Elutanthos*).

4a. Stipules persistent, reflexed; staminate disk entire; styles erect, dilated; pistillate disk patelliform. *P. harlingii*

4b. Stipules deciduous; staminate disk dissected; styles reflexed, bifid; pistillate disk \pm dissected. *P. huallagensis*

3b. Herbs; filaments free (sect. *Loxopodium*) *P. caroliniensis*

2b. Leaves only on deciduous branchlets, reduced to scales on penultimate axes; woody or herbaceous.

5a. Herbaceous; leaves < 1 cm broad; sepals usually 5; stamens 3.

(subg. *Phyllanthus*)

6a. Seeds verruculose or longitudinally striate or ribbed; pistillate.

flowers pedicellate, at distal nodes of branchlet.

(sect. *Phyllanthus*)

6a. Leaf blades inequilateral at base; seeds verruculose. *P. niruri*

7b. Leaf blades not asymmetrical at base; leaves ribbed or striate.

8a. Seeds longitudinally striate or finely ribbed; ovary smooth;
distal unisexual cymules pistillate.

9b. Distal cymules bisexual; sepals acute. *P. amarus*

9b. Distal cymules of 1 pistillate flower; sepals obtuse or
rounded. *P. stipulatus*

6b. Seeds transversely ribbed; pistillate flowers sessile, at proximal nodes of
branchlet. (sect. *Urinaria*). *P. urinaria*

5b. Woody; leaves mostly 1 cm broad or more; sepals 5 or 6; stamens 2—7.

10a. Stems clambering or climbing; branchlets pinnatifid (unramified);
pistillate sepals 5 (sect. *Pityrocladus*).

11a. Monoecious; branchlets not winged; leaf blades elliptic, 1.5—2.5
cm long, rounded and apiculate at apex; stamens mostly 4—6; fruits
indehiscent. *P. symphoricarpoides*

11b. Dioecious; branchlets winged; leaf blades ovate-lanceolate, 3—6 cm
long, acuminate; stamens 3; fruits dehiscent. *P. sponiifolius*

10b. Arborescent shrubs; branchlets pinnatifid or bipinnatifid; pistillate
sepals 5 or 6.

12a. Branchlets pinnatifid; pistillate flowers mostly 2 or more per node; pistillate sepals 5; styles distinctly dilated or lacerate distally; stamens 3—6. (sect. *Asterandra*).

13a. Styles > 1 mm long, dilated-lacerate distally; staminate disk segments discrete; leaf blades hirsutulous abaxially; seeds ridged or striate. *P. salviifolius*

13b. Styles < 1 mm long, dilated tips subentire to emarginate; staminate disk undivided, massive; leaf blades glabrous or hirtellous along veins abaxially; seeds smooth.

P. cornifolius

12b. Branchlets bipinnatifid (except in *P. pavonianus*); pistillate flowers solitary; pistillate sepals 6; styles bifid, branches slender; stamens 3 (sect. *Nothoclema*).

14a. Branchlets and leaf blades glabrous.

15a. Branchlets bipinnatifid, terete; leaf blades mostly > 1 cm broad; fruiting pedicel terete; seeds punctulate.

P. anisobus

15b. Branchlets pinnatifid, compressed, strongly ribbed; leaf blades mostly < 1 cm broad; fruiting pedicel wing-angled; seeds smooth. *P. pavonianus*

14b. Branchlets and leaves (at least the petioles) scabridulous or hirtellous.

16a. Staminate disk of 3 discrete segments; main axis of

branchlet usually without staminate cymules; plants
producing seeds.

17a. Branchlet axes hirtellous; leaf blades obtuse to acute;
styles bifid, with slender branches; seeds puncticulate.

P. graveolens

17b. Branchlet axes scabridulous; leaf blades acuminate;
style branches dilated; seeds smooth.

P. acuminatus

16b. Staminate disk annular or lobed; main axis of branchlet
often with staminate cymules; plants not producing seeds.

P. brasiliensis