

MEINECKIA Baillon

Reference: Webster, G. L. A revision of the genus Meineckia (Euphorbiaceae). Acta Bot. Neerl. 14: 323-365. 1965.

Monoecious or dioecious shrubs or subshrubs; stems spineless and without latex; leaves alternate, petiolate, stipulate, pinnately veined, entire; flowers apetalous, in axillary cymes, the _ often solitary; _ pedicels slender, basally articulate; sepals 5, imbricate; disk annular; stamens 5, filaments connate and adnate to the pistillode; _ pedicel slender, usually articulated above the base; sepals 5, imbricate, persistent in fruit; disk annular; ovary 3-locular, glabrous, locules each with 2 ovules; styles bipartite or bifid, branch-tips more or less capitate; fruit capsular, cocci thin and veiny; columella slender; seeds solitary in each locule, ecarunculate, reniform, foveolate-pitted on sides and back; endosperm copious.

This genus of 20 species has a highly dissected distribution patterns, with disjunct populations in mainland America, east Africa, Madagascar, and India. Four species occur in Mexico and Central America. Phyllanthaceae--Pseudolachnostylidinae.

Meineckia bartlettii (Standl.) Webster, Acta Bot. Neerl. 14: 346. 1965. Phyllanthus bartlettii Standl. Publ. Carnegie Inst. 461: 68. 1935.

Tropical deciduous forest, 30-100 m.

Jal., Chis., Belize (El Cayo, Bartlett 11441, F, the holotype).

Jal., Mpio. La Huerta, Rancho Cuixmala, Cumbres (Guadalupe Ayala 226, Lott 3673, 3706).

Dioecious shrub 1-2 m high; twigs scabridulous, the older terete; leaves thinly chartaceous or membranous, elliptic to ovate, (1-) 2-3.5 cm long, (1-) 1.5-2 cm broad, acute, cuneate to rounded at base, pinnately veined, glabrous except for midrib scabridulous below; lateral veins most 4 or 5, straightish, inconspicuous; petioles mostly 3-5 mm long, scabridulous; stipules lanceolate, attenuate-acuminate, fimbriate-lacerate at base, 1.2-2 mm long; _ flowers [not seen in our specimens] in axillary cymes; pedicel 3-5 mm long; sepals elliptic to suborbicular, 1-1.5 mm long; disk 1-1.5 mm across; stamens with filaments connate into a column c. 0.5 mm high; free filament tips only 0.1-0.2 mm long; anthers 0.25-0.3 mm broad; pistillode entire or crenulate, 0.2-0.25 mm broad; _ flowers solitary; pedicels in fruit slender, smooth, 20-30 mm long,

articulated c. 1 mm above base; sepals ovate to elliptic, 0.8-1.3 mm long; styles c. 0.3 mm long; seeds brownish, laterally pitted, tips connivent, 1.9-2 mm long.

The Nueva Galician specimens from Chamela differ from those in eastern Mexico and Belize in having broader, less pointed leaves. Although _ flowers have not yet been collected in our area, it appears that our plants are best regarded as a disjunct population of Meineckia bartlettii.