

## OCHNACEAE

by

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Herbs, shrubs or trees. Leaves alternate, simple, glabrous, entire or serrate. Stipules entire or fringed. Inflorescence usually consisting of terminal or axillary panicles or racemes, sometimes flowers solitary or clustered in the leaf-axils. Flowers hermaphrodite, actinomorphic. Sepals 5 (or 4—10), free, imbricate. Petals 5 (or 4—10), free, imbricate, soon falling. Stamens 5, 10, or numerous, sometimes partly staminodial; anthers linear-elongate, 2-celled, with longitudinal dehiscence (or opening by terminal pores). Ovary superior, entire or deeply lobed, 2—5-celled; style simple, awl-shaped or rarely lobed at the apex; stigmas 1—5, terminal. Gynophore or elongate receptacle present. Ovules one to many in each cell, ascending or rarely pendular. Fruit various. Seeds solitary, few or numerous. Endosperm present or wanting. Embryo large, straight.

About 375 species in 20 genera in the tropics, especially in America.

**Sauvagesia** Linnaeus, Spec. Plant. 203. 1753

Herbs or undershrubs, glabrous. Leaves sessile; blade entire or glandular-serrulate, the teeth minute, often curled or revolute. Stipules persistent, fringed. Flowers solitary or in few-flowered, axillary or terminal racemes. Sepals 5, subequal, spreading at anthesis, appressed and persistent in fruit. Petals 5, imbricate, soon deciduous, red, white or violet, usually clawed at the base. Staminodes usually in two series, the outer ones thread-like, the inner ones scale-like or petaloid, opposite the petals and enclosing the stamens and ovary. Stamens 5, persistent in fruit; filaments short; anthers narrow-oblong, 4-celled, with longitudinal dehiscence. Ovary 3-lobed, 3-celled at the base, 1-celled at the top; style subulate. Ovules on 3 parietal placentas. Capsule septicidal, 3-valved. Seeds numerous, small; testa thin, brittle, reticulate. Endosperm present.

Fifteen species, one species of pantropical distribution, the other ones in tropical America only.

**Sauvagesia erecta** L.

LINNAEUS, Spec. Plant. 203. 1753; GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 112. 1859 p.p.; Duss, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 108. 1897; BOLDINGH, Fl. D. W. Ind. Isl. 1: 133. 1909; JOHNSTON, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. 34(7): 238. 1909; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 409. 1910; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 284. 1913; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 435. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 578. 1924; WILLIAMS, Fl. Trinidad & Tobago 1(2): 121. 1929; DWYER, Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 72: 528. 1945; — *S. adina* AUBLET, Pl. Guian. franç. 1: 251. 1775; — *S. nutans* PERSOON, Syn. Plant. 1: 253. 1805; — *S. geminiflora* SESSÉ & MOÇINO ex GING in DECANDOLLE, Prodr. 1: 315. 1824; — *S. rubiginosa* ST. HILAIRE, Mém. Mus. 2: 101. 1824; — *S. laxa* MARTIUS & ZUCCARINI, Nov. Gen. 1: 38. 1824.

Woody herb or undershrub, up to 50 cm high; stems reddish-brown, often rough in the lower part, with remnants of stipules. Leaves short-petiolate; petiole up to 5 mm long; blade membranaceous, green, oblong-lanceolate, acute at the apex, cuneate at the base, 1.2—3.5 × 0.3—1 cm, the margins callose, the teeth glandular, appressed; primary veins prominent on both sides. Stipules lanceolate-linear, reddish-brown, up to 6 mm long, fringed with rather long hairs. Flowers solitary or in few-flowered cymes in the leaf-axils; pedicels usually deflexed, up to 2 cm long. Sepals equal, elliptic-lanceolate to subovate, acute at the apex, ciliate, 4—6 mm long. Petals obovate, usually somewhat longer than the sepals, 3—4 mm wide, distinctly clawed at the base, white or pink with reddish base. Staminodes of the outer series numerous, with slender, 1—2 mm long filaments; those of the inner series petaloid, 3—4 mm long, oblong-ovate, rounded or truncate at the apex. Anthers 1.5 mm long. Ovary conical; style subulate, 1.5—3.5 mm long. Capsule ovoid about 6 mm long.

Tropical continental America, West Indies, tropical Africa and Asia.

In elfin woodland.

SABA: top of The Mountain (Arnoldo 939, fl. & fr. August; Stoffers 4356, fl. & fr. August); slope of The Mountain, 800 m (Boldingh 1821, fr. July; 2209, fl. & fr. July).