

## MARCGRAVIACEAE

by

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Climbing shrubs or lianas, often epiphytic. Leaves alternate, entire, glabrous, mostly with hypophyllous glands. Stipules wanting. Inflorescences terminal, racemose, spicate or (sub)umbelliform. Bracts of the flowers transformed into mostly big, hollow, variously shaped nectaries. Bracteoles sepaloïd. Sepals 4 or 5, thick, coriaceous, free, imbricate. Petals 3 to 5, free or united and imbricate or forming a cap. Stamens 3 to numerous, free or connate. Ovary superior, 2- to several celled, with a mostly short style and an indistinctly lobed stigma. Ovules mostly numerous. Fruit capsular, more or less woody, dehiscent, inside pulpy, with few to numerous shiny, conspicuously reticulate seeds.

About 125 species in 4 genera in tropical America.

**Marcgravia** Linnaeus, Gen. ed. 1. 363. 1737; Spec. Plant. 503. 1753

Climbing or epiphytic shrubs or lianas, with dimorphous branches and leaves. Sterile branches creeping on trees and rocks, appressed to the substrate and attached by roots, with thin, small, sessile, often cordate, distichous leaves. Fertile branches free, mostly hanging, with larger, otherwise shaped, mostly petiolate and often coriaceous leaves with small glands in or near the margin and often with hypophyllous glands. Inflorescence (sub-)umbelliform or sometimes somewhat a short raceme. Central flowers reduced and abortive, the bracts of these flowers well developed into long saccate, clavate or galeate nectaries and connate with the pedicels. Fertile flowers without bracts. Bracteoles sepaloïd, mostly appressed to the calyx. Sepals 4, persistent. Corolla a deciduous cap. Stamens 7 to numerous, free. Ovary 4–20-celled. Ovules numerous. Fruit a capsule.

About 60 species in tropical America.

***Marcgravia umbellata* L.**

LINNAEUS, Spec. Plant. 503. 1753; GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 110. 1859 p.p.; WITTMACK in MARTIUS, Fl. Bras. 12(1): 226, t. 42, f. 1. 1878; URBAN, Bot. Jahrb. 21: 517. 1896; DUSS, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 106. 1897 excl. syn.; BOLDINGH, Fl. D. W. Ind. Isl. 1: 133. 1909; Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 285. 1913.

Vine with creeping sterile branches with 1—4 cm long, cordate leaves and subterete or quadrangular, tuberculate, lenticellate fertile branches with coriaceous leaves; petiole rather slender, 5—12 mm long and 1—2 mm in diam., canaliculate above; blades ovate-oblong to ovate-lanceolate, rarely oblong or elliptic-oblong, 2—3 (—4) times as long as wide, apex with an 1—2 cm long acumen, rounded or obtuse or rarely acute at the base; midrib stout, flattened or slightly sulcate above, prominent beneath; lateral veins conspicuous prominent beneath; lateral veins conspicuous prominent on both sides of the leaf, conjugating near the margin; reticulation prominent. Hypophyllous glands indistinct, two at the base near the midrib, 1—2 in the basal part of the leaf and sometimes a few near the flattened and subrevolute margin; dark coloured glands in the margin. Inflorescence with about 20—25 flowers and about 5 nectaries. Rhachis 0.5—1.5 cm long; pedicels 2.5—4 cm long, 1—2 mm thick, tuberculate-lenticellate, thickened to the obliquely inserted flowers. Nectaries cylindrical-clavate, 2.5—4.5 cm long, 3—6 mm in diam., stalk 1—1.5 cm long, flattened-sulcate, tube 2—3.5 cm long with a small rudimentary bud near the apex, opening with a mucronate margin. Bracteoles minute, at the base of the calyx. Outer sepals broadly semi-orbicular or reniform, about 2—3 mm long and 7—8 mm wide, the inner ones semi-orbicular, about 2—3 mm long and 4—5 mm wide. Corolla ovoidal, about 8—11 mm long, 6—8 mm in diam., and the wall about 1 mm thick. Stamens about 15—18; filaments flattened, 3—4 mm long; anthers linear, 4—6 mm long, cordate-sagittate at the base. Pistil flask-shaped; ovary cylindrical, sulcate, 6—8-celled, about 3—5 mm in diam. and 2—3 mm long; style cylindrical, 2—3 mm long and about 1.5—2 mm in diam.

Lesser Antilles.

In rainforests, mostly at higher altitudes, up to 1000 m.

SABA: The Mountain, 800 m (Boldingh 2207, st. June; Suringar s.n., st. Apr.); slope of The Mountain near Windwardside, 600 m (Boldingh 2159, st. June; 2160, st. June); slope of The Mountain near Hellsgate, 500 m (Boldingh 2275, fr. June); 600 m (Boldingh 2276, st. June); between Hellsgate and Santa Cruz, 550 m (Stoffers 3452, fr. May).