

## VIOLACEAE

by

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Herbs or shrubs. Leaves alternate or opposite, simple. Stipules present. Flowers actinomorphic or zygomorphic, usually hermaphroditic, rarely polygamous or cleistogamous. Sepals 5, usually free, persistent, imbricate. Petals 5, alternating with the sepals, usually free. Stamens usually 5, episealous; filaments short; anthers usually introrse, more or less connivent, with or sometimes without connective-scales. Filaments short. Ovary superior, usually 3-celled with parietal placentas, each furnished with 1— $\infty$  anatropous ovules; style one. Fruit capsular and loculicidal, bacciform or nuciform. Seeds with carnose endosperm; embryo straight.

About 900 species in nearly 20 genera all over the world, especially in tropical and temperate regions.

**Hybanthus** Jacquin, Enum. Plant. Carib. 2. 1760

Herbs or shrubs. Leaves alternate or rarely opposite, simple. Stipules persistent or caducous. Flowers white or violet, solitary or fascicled, distinctly zygomorphic. Sepals 5, subequal. Petals deciduous or persistent. The anterior petal larger than the other ones, provided with a limb and a claw, the limb considerably dilated, the claw-like base geniculate or bursiculate. The two lateral and the two posterior petals progressively smaller. Stamens 5, connate or free. The 2 (rarely 4) anterior filaments dorsally geniculate, calcarate or glandulate; anthers with prolonged membranaceous connective. Ovary unilocular with three multi-ovulate or rarely bi-ovulate placentas; style usually with curved apex. Sometimes actinomorphic cleistogamous flowers present with 5 stamens and/or staminodes. Capsule elastically dehiscent into 3 valves. Seeds oval or globular with hilum, carunculus and areola. Endosperm carnose; embryo straight.

About 100 species in tropical and subtropical regions of the Old and New World, some species in temperate regions.

**Hybanthus attenuatus** (H. & B.) G. K. Schulze

G. K. SCHULZE, Notizbl. 12: 114. 1934; — ARNOLDO, Zakflora 210. 1964; — *Ionidium attenuatum* HUMBOLDT & BONPLAND ex ROEMER & SCHULTES, Veg. 5: 402. 1819.

Annual herb with herbaceous, erect, terete, striate and sometimes branched stems, the latter with two rows of hairs. Leaves petiolate, opposite in the lower part, alternate in the upper part, sometimes with shoots in the leaf-axils; petioles pilose, (1-) 2—5 (-10) mm; blade oblong-lanceolate or rarely ovate-oblong, 2—4 (-5) times as long as wide, 1.5—10.5 × 0.5—3 cm, glabrous or pilose, acuminate at the apex, attenuate at the base, the margin irregularly serrate. Flowers white, blue, purple or violet, solitary in the leaf-axils, pedicellate; pedicels up to 2.5 cm long, pilose, bi-bracteolate, articulate near the apex. Sepals 5, subequal, sparingly pilose, about 3—4 mm long and 0.5—1 mm wide. Petals 5, the anterior one (7-) 10 (-12) mm long with an orbicular 3—5 × 5—7 mm limb and a 3—5 × 0.5—1 (-2) mm inside pilose claw; 2 lateral petals 3.5—4.5 mm long and 1.5—2 mm wide; 2 posterior petals 2.5—4 × 1—1.5 mm. Stamens 5, 2.5—3 mm long; filaments 0.5 mm long; anthers about 1.5 mm long; the membranaceous appendages of the connective about 1.5 mm. Ovary glabrous, globose,  $\frac{3}{4}$ —1 mm; style 1.5—2.5 mm long. Cleistogamous flowers actinomorphic; pedicels bibracteolate, up to 1.5 cm long, articulate near the apex. Sepals 5, subequal, free, very sparingly pilulose, 2—4 mm long and  $\frac{1}{3}$ — $\frac{1}{2}$  mm wide. Petals 5, subequal, 1—2 mm long and  $\frac{1}{2}$ — $\frac{3}{4}$  mm wide. Stamens and staminodes 5, usually 3—5 more or less reduced stamens and 0—2 staminodes. Capsule loculicidal, elastically dehiscent into 3 valves, each with 2 or 3 seeds. Seeds globose with hilum, carunculus and areola (near the apex).

Arizona, Mexico, Central America, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, and Curaçao. A road-side weed.

CURAÇAO: Julianadorp (Stoffers 1311, cleistogamous fl. & fr. Jan.); road to St. Michiels Baai, Plantage Blauw (Arnoldo 2201, hermaphroditic and cleistogamous fl. & fr. Nov.).