

PLUMBAGINACEAE

by

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Herbs, shrubs or undershrubs. Leaves alternate or rosulate, simple. Stipules wanting. Inflorescence consisting of simple or compound spikes or clusters. Flowers hermaphrodite, actinomorphic. Bracts 1; bracteoles 1 or more. Calyx tubular or funnel-shaped, ribbed; the limb 5-toothed or 5-lobed, membranaceous and hyaline between the lobes. Corolla 5-lobed; petals connate at the base only or united into a tube shorter or longer than the calyx. Stamens 5, epipetalous; filaments filiform; anthers ovate or oblong, dorsifixed, with longitudinal dehiscence. Ovary superior, stipitate or sessile, 1-locular; styles 5, distinct or more or less connate; stigmas capitate or linear. Ovules solitary, anatropous, pendulous. Fruit usually enveloped by the calyx, an utricle or achene, rarely a dehiscent capsule. Seed solitary; testa membranaceous. Endosperm floury. Embryo straight.

About 300 species in 10 genera, widely distributed in the world, often in saline habitats.

Plumbago Linnaeus, Spec. Plant. 151. 1753

Perennial herbs or undershrubs, sometimes climbing. Leaves alternate, often clasping or the petiole amplexicaul. Inflorescence consisting of terminal, bracteated spikes. Flowers blue, red or white. Calyx tubular, glandular, 5-toothed. Corolla 5-lobed, the tube long and thin. Stamens free; filaments dilated at the base; anthers linear. Ovary narrowed to the apex; styles terminal, filiform, partly united, stigmatic on the inner side. Fruit a capsule, membranaceous, circumscissile near the base. Endosperm scanty.

About 20 species in tropics and subtropics.

Key to the species:

1. Calyx uniformly glandular to the base, about 8—10 mm long; inflorescence elongated; corolla white, its tube 1.5—2 cm long, the lobes 2—7 mm long.
..... *P. scandens*

Calyx eglandular in the lower half or one-third, about 13 mm long; inflorescence with short axis, up to c. 6 cm long; corolla light blue or rarely white, its tube c. 3.5 cm long, the lobes 13 mm long. *P. auriculata*

Plumbago scandens L.

LINNAEUS, Spec. Plant. ed. 2. 215. 1762; GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 390. 1861 ['1864']; DUSS, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 380. 1897; BOLDINGH, Fl. D. W. Ind. Isl. 1: 152. 1909; JOHNSTON, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. 34(7): 245. 1909; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 478. 1910; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 314. 1913; BRITTON & MILLSAUGH, Bahama Fl. 319. 1920; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 523. 1921; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 6: 63. 1925; CHEESMAN, in Fl. Trinidad & Tobago 2: 116. 1940; QUESTEL, Fl. Isl. St. Bartholomew 165. 1941; ARNOLDO, Zakflora 73. 1954; Gekw. en nutt. pl. Ned. Ant. 110, fig. 185. 1954; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 4: 123, fig. 49. 1957; ARNOLDO, Zakflora 176. 1964; GOODING *et al.*, Fl. Barbados 322. 1965; ARNOLDO, Gekw. en nutt. pl. Ned. Ant. 215, fig. 189. 1971; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 570. 1972; FOURNET, Fl. Guadeloupe & Martinique 1042. 1978.

Straggling, glabrous undershrub; branches often elongated and vine-like. Leaves petio- late; blade membranaceous, ovate to oblong-lanceolate, acute or acuminate at the apex, basally tapering into the petiole, glabrous, entire or slightly wavy at the margin, 4—14 × 2—6 cm; petiole up to 1 cm long, amplexicaul. Spikes several- to many-flowered, 5—16 cm long, peduncle short. Bracts and bracteoles lanceolate, persistent, acuminate, about 4 mm long. Calyx 8—10 mm long, covered with long-stalked glands. Corolla white, the tube twice as long as the calyx; the lobes obovate, mucronate, spreading, 5 mm long and 3 mm wide. Staminal filaments about 2 cm long; anthers 1—1.5 mm long. Ovary 2 mm long; style about 2 cm long. Capsule 6—9 mm long, enclosed within the calyx.

Continental tropical America from Florida and Arizona southwards; West Indies.

Often a roadside weed; cultivated and escaped in Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao.

Vernacular name: blister bush (Windward Group).

ARUBA: Playa (Arnoldo 152, fl. & fr. Dec.); along roads near Oranjestad (Stoffers 2034, fl. & fr. Feb.).

CURAÇAO: Willemstad (Arnoldo 1998, fl. & fr. March).

SABA: Ladder Gut, 200 m (Boldingh 1995a, fl. July; Suringar s.n., fl. & fr. [L]); id., 100—200 m (Stoffers 2798, fl. Ap.; 3178, fl. May); id., 0—100 m (Stoffers 2817, fl. Ap.); Compagnie's Gut, 150—300 m (Stoffers 2998, fl. & fr. Ap.); The Bottom (Boldingh 1852, fl. & fr. July); between Promised Land and Thais Hill (Stoffers 3432, fl. & fr. Sept.); Pe- perpot (Suringar s.n., fl. Ap. [L]).

ST. EUSTATIUS: seashore near Oranjestad (Boldingh 13, st. May; 42, fl. May); seashore near Bengalen, in deserted plantations (Boldingh 592, st. June); gut near Fort de Windt, 50 m (Boldingh 845, fl. June); Oranjestad (Boldingh 561, fl. June); Cultuurvlakte (Stoffers 3809, fl. & fr. July; Suringar s.n., fl. Ap. [L]); along road from Oranjestad to Fort de Windt (Stoffers 3495, fl. July); near Tumble Down Dick Bay (Burgers 178, fl. & fr. Feb.); without loc. (Suringar s.n., fl. & fr. Ap. [L]; van Groll-Meyer 35, fl. & fr.).

ST. MARTIN: along roads in Prince Quarter (Boldingh 2933, st. Aug.); along road from Phi- lypsburg to Oyster Pond (Stoffers 2291, fl. March); lower part of the hills at the western side of Cul de Sac (Stoffers 2596, fl. & fr. March); lower part of the hills at the eastern side of Cul de Sac (Stoffers 2655, fl. Ap.).

Plumbago auriculata Lam.

LAMARCK, Encycl. 2: 270. 1786; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 570. 1972; FOURNET, Fl. Guadeloupe & Martinique 1042. 1978; — *Plumbago capensis* THUNBERG, Pl. Cap. 33. 1794; DUSS, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 380. 1897; BOLDINGH, Fl. D. W. Ind. Isl. 1: 151. 1909; JOHNSTON, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. 34(7): 245. 1909; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 478. 1910; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 314. 1913; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 6: 63. 1925; ARNOLDO, Gekw. en nutt. pl. Ned. Ant. 109, fig. 153. 1954; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 4: 123. 1957; GOODING *et al.*, Fl. Barbados 322. 1965; ARNOLDO, Gekw. en nutt. pl. Ned. Ant. 214, fig. 155. 1971.

Strongly branched undershrub; stems woody, half-climbing. Leaves petiolate; blade oblong to spatulate, obtuse or subacute and often mucronate at the apex, tapering at the base, 1.5—5 × 1—2 cm, glabrous; petiole about 2 mm long. Spikes many-flowered, up to 7 cm long; rachis puberulous. Bracts and bracteoles oblong, acute, about 5 mm long. Calyx 12—15 mm long, pubescent, bearing stalked glands, especially in the upper part. Corolla pale-blue; the tube about 3.5 cm long, the lobes obovate, obtuse at the apex, 1.5 cm long. Filaments filiform, 3.5 cm long; anthers 2 mm long, blue. Ovary 0.5—1 mm long, 5-lobed; style about 3 cm long. Capsule oblong-clavate, rounded above, tapering and pentagonal in the lower part.

Originally from South Africa; cultivated in the West Indies.

Vernacular names: Isabella católica, Isabella segunda, viudita (Leeward Group)
Quaker blossom, quaker (Windward Group).

ARUBA: Playa (Arnoldo 153, fl. & fr. Dec.).

CURAÇAO: St. Thomas College, Willemstad (Arnoldo 1998, fl. & fr. March).

SABA: The Bottom (Arnoldo 899, fl. & fr. Aug.; Boldingh 2291, fl. & fr. July; Stoffers 3297, fl. & fr. May).

ST. EUSTATIUS: Oranjestad (Boldingh 540, fl. June); without loc. (van Groll-Meyer s.n., fl. & fr.).

ST. MARTIN: near Bethlehem (Boldingh 2673, fl. & fr. March).