



## *Oxypetalum lividum*, a new species of Asclepiadoideae (Apocynaceae) from Peru

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### Abstract

*Oxypetalum lividum* (Apocynaceae, Asclepiadoideae), a new species from the Department of San Martín, Peru, is here described and illustrated. *Oxypetalum lividum* is similar to *O. weberbaueri*, but it differs by its sessile, 1–5-florous inflorescences, pedicels 0.7–3.5 mm long, and flowers 9–11 mm long, which are borne on short pedicels 0.7–3.5 mm long; whereas *O. weberbaueri* has pedunculate, 10–20-florous inflorescences, pedicels 5–7 mm long, and flowers ca. 20 mm long. The bluish-green leaves of *O. lividum* may also distinguish it from all other species of the genus.

**Key words:** Asclepiadaceae, biodiversity, Selva Alta, IUCN Red List, taxonomy

### Introduction

Apocynaceae comprises five subfamilies, including Apocynoideae, Asclepiadoideae, Periplocoideae, Rauvolfioideae and Secamonoideae (Endress & Bruyns 2000). Asclepiadoideae is one of the largest subfamilies; it is mainly tropical and subtropical, with its greatest diversity occurring in South America. In Peru, the subfamily is represented by 27 genera and 107 species (Brako & Zarucchi 1993), mostly vines and lianas.

*Oxypetalum* Brown (1810: 30) is the largest Neotropical genus of Asclepiadoideae, with about 120 species distributed mainly in Brazil (Farinaccio & Mello-Silva 2006), although *O. cordifolium* (Ventenat 1808: t. 60) Schlechter (1899: 269) is distributed from South America to Mexico. The species occur mainly in savannas, grasslands, and forest edges. In Peru, eight species are recognized in the genus, and two of these are endemic: *O. albiflorum* Decaisne (1844: 587), an erect herb, and *O. weberbaueri* Schlechter (1906: 622–623), a twining species (Brako & Zarucchi 1993, León 2006, Farinaccio 2008). The endemic taxa are concentrated in the very humid meso-Andean forest regions at elevations of 900–2600 m, a region of Peru having the richest biodiversity (León 2006).

*Oxypetalum* can be recognized by a combination of characters not present in all the species of the genus. These include showy flowers, lanceolate lacinia, rostrate stylehead, well-developed retinaculum (about the size of pollinia or larger), and lateral teeth on the caudicle (Farinaccio 2008, Farinaccio & Mello-Silva 2010). Several authors have contributed to the knowledge of *Oxypetalum* through revisions and local floras (*e.g.*, Hoehne 1916, Malme 1927, Meyer 1943, Farinaccio 2004, Fontella-Pereira *et al.* 2004, Marquete *et al.* 2007). During a revisionary study of *Oxypetalum* (Farinaccio 2008), a new species, *O. lividum* Farinaccio, was discovered and is described below.