



## *Clusia nitida*, a new species of *Clusia* (Clusiaceae) from the Brazilian Amazon

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### Abstract

In this paper we describe and illustrate *Clusia nitida*, a new species from the Amazon with resin-producing flowers, similar to *C. microstemon* and *C. myriandra*.

### Introduction

*Clusia* Linnaeus (1753: 510) (Clusiaceae s.s., tribe Clusieae) has about 300 exclusively neotropical species. Due to the poor knowledge of the Amazonian flora (Hopkins 2007, Schulman *et al.* 2007), the actual number may be much higher. Many species still not described also occur in the Andes (M. Gustafsson, pers. comm). For Brazil so far 67 species are listed (Bittrich 2013), but several undescribed species exist, for which only one of the sexes is known, impeding their formal description (pers. obs.).

Clusias are trees, shrubs and hemi-epiphytes, usually dioecious, with the leaves more or less fleshy, and showy flowers, offering various types of rewards, including floral resin. The ovary locules have (1–)2 to many ovules. The fruits are septifragal fleshy capsules with usually two or more seeds per locule, the seeds are more or less completely covered by a non-vascularized aril. Due to the great variability of the male androecium, the species are generally much easier to recognize with male than with female flowers or with fruits. Therefore, the infrageneric classification of the genus, mostly confirmed as natural by modern data, was based especially on the morphology of the male androecium (Planchon & Triana 1860).

In this paper we describe a new species of *Clusia* for the Amazon, apparently belonging to the section *Phloianthera* Planchon & Triana (1860: 319). Molecular data are still needed to confirm this placement, as there is some confusion in the literature concerning the delimitation of sections *Phloianthera* and *Cordylandra* Planchon & Triana (1860: 319). Sect. *Cordylandra* was even synonymized under sect. *Phloianthera* by Pipoly *et al.* (1998), but molecular data (Gustafsson *et al.* 2007) clearly indicates that these sections are not closely related. The new species here described belongs to a group of species with a flat disk-like androecium in the staminate flowers, covered by a resin-pollen mixture, as occurs in *Clusia renggerioides* Planchon & Triana (1860: 350) and other species of sect. *Cordylandra*. None of these species supposedly belonging into sect. *Phloianthera* was hitherto included in a molecular phylogenetic study.

### Taxonomy

*Clusia nitida* Bittrich & F. N. Cabral, *sp. nov.* (sect. *Phloianthera*) (Fig. 1 & Fig. 2)

Diagnosis: Similar to *Clusia microstemon*, but dry leaves are darker coloured and generally have a shiny surface, the latex channels are denser on the adaxial surface, the midrib is conspicuous as far as to the apex, the petal colour is