



# PHYTOTAXA

106

## **Nomenclator botanicus for the neotropical genus *Miconia* (Melastomataceae: Miconieae)**

RENATO GOLDENBERG<sup>1</sup>, FRANK ALMEDA<sup>2</sup>, MAYARA K. CADDAH<sup>3</sup>, ANGELA B. MARTINS<sup>3</sup>,  
JULIA MEIRELLES<sup>3</sup>, FABIAN A. MICHELANGELI<sup>4</sup> & MARKUS WEISS<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universidade Federal do Paraná, Departamento de Botânica, Centro Politécnico, Caixa Postal 19031, Curitiba, PR, 81531-970, Brazil; [renato.goldenberg@gmail.com](mailto:renato.goldenberg@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> Department of Botany, California Academy of Sciences, 55 Music Concourse Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118, USA; [falmeda@calacademy.org](mailto:falmeda@calacademy.org)

<sup>3</sup> Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Pós-Graduação em Biologia Vegetal, Cidade Universitária Zeferino Vaz, 13083-970, Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil.

<sup>4</sup> The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Blvd, Bronx, NY 10458, USA.

<sup>5</sup> Information Technology Center, Staatliche Naturwissenschaftliche Sammlungen Bayerns, Menzinger Straße 67, 80638 München, Germany.



Magnolia Press  
Auckland, New Zealand

Renato Goldenberg, Frank Almeda, Mayara K. Caddah, Angela B. Martins, Julia Meirelles,  
Fabian A. Michelangeli & Markus Weiss  
**Nomenclator botanicus for the neotropical genus *Miconia* (Melastomataceae: Miconieae)**  
(*Phytotaxa* 106)

171 pp.; 30 cm.

6 June 2013

ISBN 978-1-77557-192-6 (paperback)

ISBN 978-1-77557-193-3 (Online edition)

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 2013 BY

Magnolia Press

P.O. Box 41-383

Auckland 1346

New Zealand

e-mail: [magnolia@mapress.com](mailto:magnolia@mapress.com)

<http://www.mapress.com/phytotaxa/>

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ISSN 1179-3155 (Print edition)

ISSN 1179-3163 (Online edition)

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## Abstract

*Miconia* has 1057 species and is the largest genus of woody flowering plants with a distribution restricted to tropical America. These species occur from Mexico (79 spp) to Argentina (10) and Uruguay (1), and attain highest richness in Colombia (338 spp), Peru (302), Brazil (274), Ecuador (254) and Venezuela (212). More than half of the species belong to only three sections (*Miconia* with 245, *Cremanium* with 223, and *Amblyarrhena* with 212). The other sections are *Chaenopleura* (86 spp), *Glossocentrum* (82), *Tamonea* (71), *Octomeris* (59), *Jucunda* (23), *Laceraria* (19), *Chaenantha* (17), *Hartigia* (7), and *Adenodesma* (6), while seven species have not been assigned to any section. In this nomenclator we attempt to enumerate all currently accepted species of *Miconia* with place of publication, information on types, synonymy, sectional placement, and distributional notes organized by country.

**Key words:** geographical distribution, megadiverse genus, nomenclature, taxonomy

## Introduction

*Miconia* Ruiz & Pav. (1794: 60) is the largest genus of woody flowering plants with a distribution restricted to tropical America (Goldenberg 2000; Goldenberg et al. 2008). The genus includes just under one quarter of the total 5000 + species of Melastomataceae, which are largely centered in the tropical and subtropical regions of the world (Clausing & Renner 2001). As a generic name, *Miconia* has been conserved (Farr et al. 1979) against *Tamonea* Aublet (1775: 411), *Leonicenia* Scopoli (1777: 212), *Lieutatia* Buchoz (1779: 10), and *Zulatia* Necker (1790: 117; see Briquet 1906, Camp. et al. 1947, and subsequent codes). *Fothergilla* Aublet (1775:411) is an older name, but it is illegitimate as it was also preoccupied by *Fothergilla* Murray (1774: 418; see Rickett & Stafleu 1960, Williams 1963).

The last taxonomic revision of this genus was published in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Cogniaux 1891). That monumental account of the Melastomataceae treated only half of the species accepted here. Since then, *Miconia* has been treated mostly in regional Floras (Wurdack 1962, Wurdack 1973, Wurdack 1980, Wurdack et al. 1993, Almeda 2001, Almeda et al. 2007, Almeda 2009, Goldenberg 2009 and others) which concentrated on the delimitation and identification of large numbers of species. The very nature of these studies precluded any attempt to resolve problems involving generic circumscription and infrageneric classification. Consequently, Cogniaux (1891) was the last specialist who attempted to provide an infrageneric classification of *Miconia*. He divided the genus into 11 sections, based mostly on stamen morphology, but also on other features of the calyx and leaf morphology. Information on sectional placement of the 500 species described since Cogniaux's monograph has not always appeared in the protologues of newly described species and in many cases no subsequent placement has been proposed. Distributional information for each species is also scattered despite the ongoing publication of regional floras. Each collecting expedition to the tropics results in the discovery of new taxa and expands the ranges of others. In this nomenclator we attempt to enumerate all currently accepted species of *Miconia* with place of publication, information on types, synonymy, sectional placement, and distributional notes organized by country. Detailed data on phylogeny, economic uses, ecology and taxonomic history of *Miconia* can be found in Goldenberg et al. (2008).