



## A new species of *Deguelia* (Leguminosae, Papilionoideae) from the Brazilian Amazon Basin

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### Abstract

*Deguelia decorticans*, a new lianescent species of Leguminosae from the Brazilian Amazon, is here described and illustrated. The new species has flowers which resemble those of *Deguelia duckeana* and *Deguelia rariflora* and it might be closely related to them, probably forming a species complex. However, this new species can be easily distinguished by some morphological and reproductive characteristics.

**Keywords:** Amazon Basin, Neotropics, *Deguelia*, Leguminosae, new species, liana

### Introduction

*Deguelia* Aublet (1775: 750) contains ca. 20 species of neotropical trees or scandent shrubs to lianas from the tribe Millettieae (Leguminosae, Papilionoideae). It is distributed from Panama to southeastern Brazil (São Paulo state), mostly in the Amazon Basin in forested habitats. Only one species occurs in the “Cerrado” domain, *D. nitidula* (Bentham 1860: 98) A. M. G. Azevedo & R. A. Camargo in Camargo & Tozzi (2014: 16), which has the widest distribution for the genus. *Deguelia* was first described for French Guiana (Aublet 1775) and later synonymized with *Derris* Loureiro (1790: 432) by Bentham (1860). Some species have been included in *Lonchocarpus* Kunth in Humboldt *et al.* (1824: 383) by some authors (Bentham 1839, 1860, 1862; Pittier 1917; Ducke 1925; Hermann 1947; Lemée 1952) or also in *Derris* (Bentham 1860, 1862; Macbride 1943; Ducke 1949), until the genus was reestablished (Geesink 1984). Tozzi (1989) studied the Brazilian *Deguelia* and described three new species (Tozzi 1994), whereas Sousa (2009) described a new species for Panama and Colombia. Recently, a synopsis of the Brazilian species was presented by Camargo & Tozzi (2014), with a key for the 15 recognized species.

The species of *Deguelia* can be distinguished from other neotropical Millettoid allies mainly by their pseudoracemose inflorescence whose secondary axes form brachyblasts with more than five flowers. *Deguelia* species vary in their habit (trees or lianas), number of leaflets (3–17) and fruit types (rarely elastic dehiscent, a few lately dehiscent with many seeds or more usually indehiscent, few seeded).

Here we describe a new *Deguelia* species, a scandent shrub collected in the Amazon Basin, first noticed during a visit to INPA herbarium for a generic revision.

### Material & methods

Herbarium specimens from INPA (Manaus, Brazil) were examined locally and during a field trip, together with loans from HRCB (Rio Claro, Brazil) and available images from Re flora Virtual Herbarium (<http://reflora.jbrj.gov.br/jabot/PrincipalUC/PrincipalUC.do>). Morphological terms were based on Radford *et al.* (1974) and the terminology of the diagnosis was extracted from Stearn (1983). Flowers were rehydrated as usual and then glued on a stiff white paper and measured.

**TABLE 1.** Comparative morphology of *Deguelia decorticans* and its closely related species.

Character/Species	<i>Deguelia rariflora</i>	<i>Deguelia duckeana</i>	<i>Deguelia decorticans</i>
Bark	rugose	rugose	peeling off in layers
Stipels	absent	absent	present
Leaflet number	3–5	5–11	9–11
Leaflets	widely elliptic	elliptic	narrowly elliptic (rare elliptic)
Pedicele	0.1–0.2 cm	0.1–0.4 cm	0.8–1.3 cm
Bracts	ovate	ovate	lanceolate
Bracteoles	ovate	ovate	lanceolate
Standard (length)	0.8–0.9(–1) cm	0.9–1.1 cm	1–1.2 cm
Wings (length)	0.7–1 cm	0.8–1.1 cm	0.8–1.3 cm
Wings (shape)	elliptic-falcate	elliptic-falcate	oblong-spatulate
Legume	indehiscent	lately dehiscent	unknown

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