

## A NOTE ON THE UNUSUAL STIPULES IN *GLEASONIA PRANCEI* (RUBIACEAE)

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Rogers, George K. (Arnold Arboretum, Cambridge, MA 02138). A note on the unusual stipules in *Gleasonia prancei* (Rubiaceae). *Brittonia* 37: 320. 1985.— By having two stipular lobes somewhat lateral above each petiole (vs. one lobe centered over the petiole), the newly described *Gleasonia prancei* differs from other species of *Gleasonia* while agreeing with species of *Henriquezia*. This augments the growing support for associating the genera taxonomically.

One of the distinguishing features of the new species *Gleasonia prancei* B. M. Boom (1985) adds new evidence to the controversial question of whether *Gleasonia* Standley is related to the closely knit pair *Henriquezia* Spruce ex Benth. and *Platycarpum* Humb. & Bonpl. Before the discovery of *G. prancei*, I sketched out the background of the problem and gathered evidence that bears upon it (Rogers, 1984). Until now, these three South American members of the Rubiaceae were thought to differ consistently from each other in arrangements and numbers of stipular lobes. Briefly, in *Platycarpum* one lobe is centered between each pair of laterally adjacent petioles. In the four previously known species of *Gleasonia* one lobe is centered above each petiole. Species of *Henriquezia* and specimens of *G. prancei* have two lobes per petiole, each more or less centered over the edge of the petiolar base, although the lobes in *G. prancei* deviate from *Henriquezia* and resemble those of other species of *Gleasonia* by being inserted above (vs. more or less alongside and fused with) the petioles, bearing adaxial colleters, and being connate basally.

While certainty that the paired lobes of *G. prancei* are homologous with those of *Henriquezia* is not possible, this feature represents a new addition to the list of similarities that favor a place for *Gleasonia* in the tribe Henriquezieae with *Platycarpum* and *Henriquezia*.

Also worth pointing out is that Kirkbride (1985) recently outlined the distribution in the Rubiaceae of flaglike development of sepals, which is one of the most striking characteristics of all five species of *Gleasonia*.

Specimens examined: BRAZIL. AMAZONAS: 1978, *Rosa & Lira* 2301 (NY); 1984, *Prance et al.* 29052 (NY). (In both collections the only persistent stipules are associated with the leaves immediately beneath the inflorescences.)

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### Literature Cited

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Rogers, G. K. 1984. *Gleasonia*, *Henriquezia*, and *Platycarpum* (Rubiaceae). *Fl. Neotropica* 39: 1–135.