



Stem Morphoanatomy of *Poiretia tetraphylla* (Poiret) Burkart (Leguminosae)

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SUMMARY. *Poiretia tetraphylla* is an erect herb to subshrub, perennial, native to Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. It is popularly known as erva-de-touro-miúda and used in traditional medicine as tonic, in stomach disorders and verminosis. The stem is angular, striate, glabrous with copious amounts of oblong and translucent glands. The epidermis is uni-stratified and persistent, stomata well pronounced, thick, smooth and plain cuticle and oval mucilaginous glandular formations. The cortex has parenchyma cells, and the innermost layer is distinguished from others by having large cells with little cytoplasmic content. In this region, protecting the phloem, has a group up to six layers of sclerenchyma fibers. The central cylinder presents vascular system of sifonostelic continuous ectofolic type. The pith is composed of parenchyma cells with intercellular space of *meatus* type. The whole of these diagnostic traits are useful on the botanical quality control of this species.

KEY WORDS: Botanical quality control, *Poiretia tetraphylla*, Stem morphoanatomy.

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