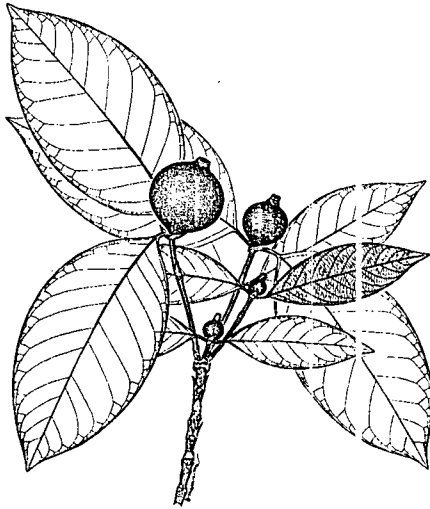


THE *ALIBERTIA* GROUP (Gardenieae—Rubiaceae)—Part 1

(*Agouticarpā*, *Alibertia*, *Cordiera*, *Melanopsidium*,
Riodocea, and *Stenosepala*)

Claes Persson & Piero G. Delprete



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ABSTRACT

Persson, Claes (Herbarium, Dept. Biological & Environmental Sciences, University of Gothenburg, Göteborg, Sweden, email: claes.persson@bioenv.gu.se) & **Piero G. Delprete** (Herbier de Guyane, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), UMR AMAP, Boite Postale 90165, 97323 Cayenne Cedex, French Guiana, France, email: piero.delprete@ird.fr). The *Alibertia* group (Gardenieae—Rubiaceae). Part 1 (*Agouticarpa*, *Alibertia*, *Cordia*, *Melanopsidium*, *Riodocea*, and *Stenosepala*). Flora Neotropica Monograph 119: 1–243. 2017.—The *Alibertia* group (Gardenieae—Rubiaceae) comprises 12 neotropical genera and about 110 species, a few of which extend to extra-tropical areas in southern Brazil, Paraguay, and northern Argentina. Six genera and 50 species are monographed: *Agouticarpa* (7 spp.), *Alibertia* (15 spp.), *Cordia* (25 spp.), *Melanopsidium* (1 sp.), *Riodocea* (1 sp.), and *Stenosepala* (1 sp.). The taxonomy, phylogeny, various aspects of morphology, and natural history are treated. The genera of the group are characterized by being dioecious, woody plants with heteromorphic inflorescences (homomorphic in *Amaioua* and *Botryarrhena*), heteromorphic flowers, contorted corolla aestivation, pollen grains released as monads, and baccate fruits. *Agouticarpa* is readily recognized by its caducous stipules, tiny calyx tube, pedicellate male inflorescences, and small to large, globular fruits. *Alibertia* and *Cordia* are characterized by usually having capitate male inflorescences. The male corolla is (4–)5–6(–8)-merous in *Alibertia* and (3–)4–5(–7)-merous in *Cordia*. Pollen grains are porate in *Alibertia* and colpate in *Cordia*. The fruits in *Alibertia* are leathery or woody and (1–)5–10(–15) cm diam., whereas those of *Cordia* are usually fleshy and 0.7–3(–6) cm diam. *Melanopsidium* may be recognized by their sheathing stipules that are split on one side, the rather congested cyme of the male inflorescences, and the ribbed ovary and fruit. *Riodocea* is easily recognized by its contorted, foliose calyx lobes that are persistent in fruit and 12–15-merous campanulate corolla. *Stenosepala* is characterized by its narrow calyx lobes, persistent, aristate triangular stipules, a large, rather sparse thyrse, and very hirsute ovary in female flowers. Fourteen new taxa are described in this treatment: *Alibertia curviflora* var. *loretana* Delprete & C. H. Perss., *A. eaulis* var. *manuana* Delprete & C. H. Perss., *A. occidentalis* Delprete & C. H. Perss., *Cordia bahiensis* C. H. Perss. & Delprete, *C. carioca* C. H. Perss. & Delprete, *C. coriacea* C. H. Perss., Delprete & Popovkin, *C. montana* C. H. Perss., Delprete & Antonelli, *C. mussunungae* C. H. Perss. & Delprete, *C. myrciifolia* var. *barbata* C. H. Perss. & Delprete, *C. myrciifolia* var. *peruviana* C. H. Perss. & Delprete, *C. papillosa* C. H. Perss. & Delprete, *C. rugulata* C. H. Perss. & Delprete, *C. stipulacea* C. H. Perss. & Delprete, and *C. tuberculata* C. H. Perss. & Delprete.