



## Studies in the Neotropical Apocynaceae L: The genus *Allamanda* in Colombia and a new combination

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### Abstract

A brief synopsis of the genus *Allamanda* (Apocynaceae, Rauvolfioideae) in Colombia is presented, including a key, photographs of the species, and a new combination, *A. salicifolia*.

**Key words:** Gentianales, Plumerieae, Rauvolfioideae, South America

### Resumen

Una breve sinopsis del género *Allamanda* (Apocynaceae, Rauvolfioideae) en Colombia se presenta, incluyendo una clave, fotografías de las especies y una nueva combinación, *A. salicifolia*.

### Introduction

*Allamanda* Linnaeus (1771: 214) (Apocynaceae, Rauvolfioideae, Plumerieae) is a small genus mostly restricted to Brazil, with a few native species in Venezuela, Colombia, and Peru (Sakane & Shepherd, 1986). The last monograph of the genus (Sakane & Shepherd, 1986) recognized thirteen species. An additional taxon, endemic to limestone outcrops in south western Bahia and northern Minas Gerais, Brazil, was recently published by Souza-Silva & Rapini (2009), increasing the number of taxa to fourteen. *Allamanda* can be recognized by the following combination of characters: leaves verticillate, subverticillate, opposite or subopposite, infundibuliform corolla (usually slightly zygomorphic), with a corona of hairs within the tube and above the anthers, style-head with an annular ring at the base, dehiscent capsular fruits, commonly echinate on the external surface, and winged seeds (Morales, 2005). Only three species lack echinate fruits: *A. laevis* Markgraf (1940: 131), *A. nobilis* Moore (1868: 918), and *A. weberbaueri* Markgraf (1924: 77), but all share the rest of the morphological characters of the genus (Figs. 1–2). *Allamanda* has been used widely as an ornamental plant in the tropics, mainly for its showy flowers, flowering throughout the year, and easy vegetative propagation. Currently, only four species are used as ornamentals (*A. cathartica* Linnaeus (1771: 214), *A. blanchetii* Candolle (1844: 319), *A. doniana* Müller Argoviensis (1860: 11) (mostly in northern Brazil), and *A. schottii* Pohl (1827: 73) and many horticultural varieties are found among these.

Sakane and Shepherd (1986) reported two species for Colombia, *A. nobilis* T. Moore, based on a specimen collected in the Magdalena Valley (*Haught 3700*, COL, SP) and *A. thevetiifolia* Müller Argoviensis (1860: 388), known only from the type at that time. However, since the type locality (Maypures, Orinoco) of the latter species is actually in Venezuela (Amazonas state), the report for Colombia was erroneous. During the preparation of the treatment of Apocynaceae s.s. (subfamilies Apocynoideae and Rauvolfioideae) for the Flora of Colombia, almost all the type collections of taxa reported for that country have been studied, as well as specimens cited in different monographs, in order to confirm the identity of every species. A careful examination of *Haught 3700* reveals that it is a typical specimen of *A. cathartica*, with leaf blades somewhat pubescent. Therefore, *A. nobilis* should be considered restricted to northern Brazil and SE Venezuela.

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