

KEY TO THE ECUADOREAN ESPECIES OF *ACALYPHA*

## Key to the subgenus

- 1a. Female flowers pedicellate, calyx with 4 or 5 sepals, the subtending bracts inconspicuous, not becoming foliaceous in the fruit. subgen. *Linostachys*
- 1b. Female flower sessile, calyx with 3 sepals, the subtending bracts becoming foliaceous and accrescent in the fruit. subgen. *Acalypha*

Subgenus *Linostachys*

- 1a. Leaf blade palmately nerved, with minute resinous bright droplets, mainly on lower surface *A. villosa*
- 1b. Leaf blade pinnately nerved, minute resinous bright droplets absent.
- 2a. Female inflorescences panicle-shaped. Leaf blade with 10-17 veins per side; stipules generally more than 5 mm long. Petioles more than 1 cm long. *A. platyphylla*
- 2b. Female inflorescences racemose. Leaf blade with 9-13 veins per side; stipules inconspicuous, ca. 1 mm long. Petioles less than 1 cm long. *A. salicifolia*

Subgenus *Acalypha*

- 1a. Herb or suffrutex.
- 2a. Female inflorescences ellipsoid or cylindrical, densely flowered, with the axis completely covered by the flowers.
- 3a. Female bract with long awned lobes.
- 4a. Young branches and leaves without glandular hairs; leaf blade acute; styles branched. *A. arvensis*
- 4b. Young branches and leaves with glandular hairs; leaf blade acuminate; styles unbranched. *A. alopecuroides*
- 3b. Female bract with triangular awnless lobes. *A. infesta*
- 2b. Female inflorescences loosely flowered, with the axis conspicuously visible.
- 5a. Female inflorescences terminal, bracts with filiform lobes cut more than 1/2 way to the base. *A. subcastrata*
- 5b. Female inflorescences axillary, bracts with triangular lobes cut ca. 1/4 way to the base. *A. cuspidata*

## 1b. Trees or shrubs.

## 6a. Leaves with indumentum of stellate hairs.

7a. Female inflorescences terminal, subtending bracts and styles with stellate hairs. *A. stellata*

7b. Female inflorescences generally axillary, rarely terminal, subtending bracts and styles without stellate hairs. *A. dictyoneura*

## 6b. Leaves without indumentum of stellate hairs.

## 8a. Female or bisexual inflorescences terminal.

## 9a. Female bracts with glandular hairs.

10a. Accrescent bracts subtriangular, with the central tooth prominent, lanceolate, acuminate. *A. websteri*

10b. Accrescent bracts suborbicular, with the central tooth not or slightly prominent.

11a. Leaf blade generally broadly ovate-lanceolate, accrescent bracts with glandular hairs ca. 0.3-0.5 mm long, styles 4-5 mm long. *A. schiedeana*

11b. Leaf blade generally narrowly ovate-lanceolate, accrescent bracts with glandular hairs ca. 1 mm long, styles 7-8 mm long.

*A. padifolia*

## 9b. Female bracts without glandular hairs.

*A. stachyura*

## 8b. Female or bisexual inflorescences axillary.

## 12a. Plant with both unisexual and bisexual inflorescences.

13a. Leaf blade generally triangular-lanceolate, palmately nerved.

*A. cuspidata*

13b. Leaf blade elliptic-lanceolate or oblong-lanceolate, pinnately nerved. *A. diversifolia*

## 12b. Plant with all the inflorescences unisexual.

## 14a. Leaf blade pinnately nerved.

15a. Female inflorescences densely flowered, with the axis completely covered by the flowers. *A. hispida*

15b. Female inflorescences loosely flowered, with the axis visible.

16a. Leaf blade generally obovate and subcuneate, female inflorescences 7-15 cm long. *A. cuneata*

16b. Leaf blade ovate to oblong-lanceolate, the base rounded to subcordate, female inflorescences 25-40 cm long.

*A. scandens*

14b. Leaf blade palmately nerved.

17a. Leaf blade generally variegate; female inflorescences up to  
10 cm long. *A. amentacea* subsp. *wilkesiana*

17b. Leaf blade not variegate, female inflorescences more than  
15 cm long. *A. macrostachya*