

OCHNACEAE

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A pantropical family of trees, shrubs or less often herbs, with 33 genera and ~650 species. The family contains 20 genera and ~436 species in the Neotropics of which only the monotypic genus *Krukoviella* is a scrambling shrub or liana. The description that follows pertains to this species since it is the only climber of Ochnaceae in the Neotropics.

Diagnostics: See *Krukoviella* below.

General Characters

1. STEMS. Cylindrical, lenticellate, unarmed; cross section with regular anatomy, with narrow rays.
2. EXUDATES. Exudates apparently none, as there is no mention of it on any of the collections of the species.
3. CLIMBING MECHANISM. Recorded in several botanical collections as a scrambling vine or as a shrub with scrambling branches. Stems collection at US-wood collection (*Ducke 1839*) have numerous adventitious roots therefore a root-climber.
4. LEAVES. Simple, alternate, distichous, with entire or inconspicuously dentate margins, venation penninerved; petioles stout, short.
5. INFLORESCENCES. A terminal paniculate cyme with flowers in dichasia.
6. FLOWERS. Actinomorphic, 5-merous, bisexual; pedicellate. Sepals concave, coriaceous, ovate, much shorter than the petals; petals free, yellow, cordiform; stamens 10, of same length, filaments free, much shorter than the anthers, anthers oblong, dehiscing by a single apical pore; gynoecium superior, syncarpous, 5-carpellate, oblong, with 5 intrusive parietal placentae carrying several rows of ovules, the style very short, the stigmas 5.

7. FRUITS. Small, fusiform, dry, acropetally dehiscent capsule.
8. SEEDS. Seeds small (~3 mm long), winged.

KRUKOVIELLA A. C. Smith, J. Arnold Arbor. 20: 295. 1939.

Scrambling or root-climbing lianas, sometimes erect shrubs with scrambling branches;



Krukoviella disticha, from van der Werff 21909 (US).

stems cylindrical to lobed, unarmed, reaching 10 cm in diam. and 15–20 m in length; bark rough, peeling off in small plates; cross section regular, the medulla sometimes acentric, xylem traversed by numerous narrow rays; exudate not recorded. Leaves simple, alternate, distichous, with entire or inconspicuously dentate margins, venation pinninerved, impressed above, prominent below,

secondary veins 10–15 pairs, sometimes at nearly 90° angle with the midvein, tertiary veins inconspicuous, reticulate and nearly perpendicular to the secondary veins; petioles stout, short. Inflorescence a terminal paniculate cyme with flowers in dichasia. Flowers actinomorphic, 5-merous, bisexual; long pedicellate; sepals concave, coriaceous, ovate, free, slightly unequal, ~1/3 the length of petals; petals free, yellow, cordiform; stamens 10, filaments free of equal length, much shorter than the anthers, anthers oblong, dehiscent by a single apical pore; gynoecium superior, syncarpous, 5-carpellate, oblong, with 5 intrusive parietal placentae with several rows

of ovules, style very short with five stigmata. Fruit a small, fusiform, dry capsule, acropetally dehiscent. Seed winged, ~3 mm long.

Distinctive features: Unarmed scrambling (root-climbing) liana or sometimes a shrub with scrambling branches; leaves rigid, coriaceous, oblanceolate to obovate, midvein and secondary veins adaxially impressed and abaxially prominent; stipules large, with numerous conical colleters at the adaxial base, early caducous leaving a scar that extends around the stem; fruits fusiform capsules that open from the bottom up. Superficially similar to members of Dilleniaceae but distinguished by the stipule scar that extends around the stem (not present in Dilleniaceae).

Distribution: A Western Amazonian endemic genus with a single species (*Krukoviella disticha* (Tiegh.) Dwyer), distributed in Ecuador, Peru and the state of Amazonas, Brazil; lowland moist, non-flooded (terra firme) forests.