PhytoKeys 43

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A REVISION OF PASSIFLORA L. SUBGENUS DECALOBA (D.C.) RCHB. SUPERSECTION CIECA (MEDIK.) J. M. MACDOUGAL & FEUILLET (PASSIFLORACEAE)
by Kristen Porter-Utley

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Passiflora megacoriacea K. Porter-Utley., sp. nov.

PhytoKeys 43 ♦ 2014 **Special Issue**

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The members of Passiflora subgenus Decaloba supersection Cieca are revised. The 19 species recognized here are primarily distributed in

the Americas, with two species naturalized in various regions of the

Old World. Phylogenetic relationships within supersection Cieca are

investigated by means of phenetic and cladistic analyses of morphological and molecular (ITS 1 & 2) characters. All analyses confirm the monophyly

of the supersection. The species of the supersection are recognized by

their small, apetalous, usually greenish flowers with the filaments of the

corona mostly in two series. The supersection contains two problematic species complexes, P. suberosa and P. coriacea. Analyses show that the P. suberosa complex is a non-monophyletic group of cryptic species, and

inter-taxic hybridization and polyploidy have contributed to the confusing and complex pattern of variation evident within the group. Four taxa in this complex are recognized: P. pallida, P. suberosa subsp. suberosa, P. suberosa subsp. litoralis, and P. tridactylites. Three species from the P. coriacea complex are recognized: P. coriacea, P. sexocellata, and P. megacoriacea. A key, detailed descriptions, distribution maps, and illustrations are included in this revision. Pollination, dispersal, and herbivory of the group are reviewed.

The distribution and ecology of the species are also discussed.

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